

Name: _____ Date: _____

Shatter Borders: A Senior Lit World Literature Quiz

Beyond common canons—this assessment identifies fundamental shifts in storytelling across global stages, from Persian epics to modern Polish verse.

1. Which Persian epic poem, written by Ferdowsi, serves as a foundational pillar of Iranian identity and world history?

- A. The Shahnameh
- B. The Rubaiyat
- C. The Conference of the Birds
- D. Masnavi

2. Wislawa Szymborska, a Nobel Prize winner, is primarily known for her contributions to world literature through her reflective and ironic Polish poetry.

- A. True
- B. False

3. The celebrated play 'Death and the King's Horseman' was written by the first African to win a Nobel Prize in Literature, _____.

- A. Wole Soyinka
- B. Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o
- C. Ben Okri
- D. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

4. Which Czech author is famous for the short story 'The Metamorphosis,' a staple of world literature that explores themes of alienation?

- A. Milan Kundera
- B. Franz Kafka
- C. Václav Havel
- D. Karel Čapek

5. Isabel Allende, the Chilean-American author of 'The House of the Spirits,' often integrates magical elements into historical and political settings.

- A. True
- B. False

6. The Russian novel 'Crime and Punishment,' which explores the psychological struggle of its protagonist Raskolnikov, was written by _____.

- A. Leo Tolstoy
- B. Anton Chekhov
- C. Fyodor Dostoevsky

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D. Ivan Turgenev

7. What is the primary narrative focus of Lu Xun's 'A Madman's Diary' in the context of 20th-century Chinese literature?

- A. A celebration of ancient dynasties
- B. A critique of traditional feudal values
- C. A guide to maritime travel
- D. A collection of romantic fables

8. The 'Epic of Gilgamesh' is a modern 20th-century work written by an anonymous Iraqi author to mimic ancient styles.

- A. True
- B. False

9. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's famous work about life in a Soviet labor camp is titled 'One Day in the Life of _____'.

- A. Yuri Zhivago
- B. Ivan Denisovich
- C. Aleksei Vronsky
- D. Pavel Korchagin

10. Which French existentialist philosopher and author wrote the novel 'The Stranger,' focusing on the concept of the Absurd?

- A. Jean-Paul Sartre
- B. Albert Camus
- C. Simone de Beauvoir
- D. Marcel Proust