

Literary Science and Theory

Literature · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which linguistic theory posits that the structure of a language affects its speakers' worldview or cognition?

- A) Generative Grammar
- B) Structuralism
- C) Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis**
- D) Functional Linguistics

2. In cognitive literary studies, the concept of 'schema' refers to:

- A) The emotional response evoked by a text
- B) A reader's prior knowledge and expectations that shape interpretation**
- C) The grammatical complexity of a sentence
- D) The chronological order of events in a narrative

3. Neuroscience research on reading suggests that the brain processes narrative information by:

- A) Simultaneously activating all brain regions related to memory
- B) Primarily engaging the visual cortex for word recognition
- C) Simulating the experiences described in the text, activating related brain areas**
- D) Storing literary elements in a separate, specialized neural network

4. Evolutionary psychology offers an explanation for the enduring appeal of certain narrative structures (e.g., hero's journey) by linking them to:

- A) Random cultural diffusion
- B) The need to practice social dominance hierarchies
- C) Universal human psychological adaptations for survival and reproduction**
- D) The influence of early printing technologies

5. The study of 'narratology' as a field of literary analysis focuses on:

- A) The biographical context of authors
- B) The underlying principles and structures of narrative**
- C) The historical evolution of literary genres
- D) The etymology of words used in literature

6. Which phenomenon, studied in psycholinguistics, describes the tendency for readers to make predictions about upcoming words or phrases based on the preceding text?

- A) Lexical Access
- B) Syntactic Ambiguity
- C) Predictive Processing**
- D) Semantic Priming

7. The concept of 'suspense' in literature is often analyzed through the lens of cognitive psychology in terms of:

- A) The reader's ability to recall plot details
- B) The reader's uncertainty and anticipation of future events**
- C) The author's deliberate use of foreshadowing
- D) The reader's familiarity with narrative tropes

8. Computational linguistics, when applied to literary analysis, can be used to:

- A) Solely determine the moral of a story
- B) Quantitatively analyze stylistic patterns, authorship, and thematic trends**
- C) Predict future literary masterpieces
- D) Replace human literary critics entirely

9. The 'theory of mind' in cognitive science is relevant to literary interpretation because it explains our ability to:

- A) Recognize recurring literary motifs
- B) Understand the mental states, beliefs, and intentions of characters**
- C) Analyze the rhyme scheme of a poem
- D) Identify the historical period of a novel

10. The field of literary forensics, which uses linguistic analysis to identify authors, relies on the principle that:

- A) All authors write with identical grammatical structures
- B) Authorship is marked by unique patterns of word choice, sentence structure, and grammar**
- C) Literary style is purely a matter of chance
- D) Modern technology can always perfectly replicate an author's style

11. What scientific concept is often used to explain the phenomenon of 'flow' experienced by readers deeply engrossed in a text?

- A) Cognitive Dissonance
- B) Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs
- C) Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi's Flow Theory**
- D) The Yerkes-Dodson Law

12. The study of literary evolution, drawing parallels with biological evolution, examines how:

- A) Authors biologically evolve over their careers
- B) Literary forms and themes change and adapt over time through processes akin to natural selection and variation**
- C) Readers physically adapt to different reading environments
- D) The physical appearance of books has changed due to genetic mutation

13. Research in memory and learning suggests that narrative, as a format for conveying information, is particularly effective because:

- A) It relies solely on rote memorization
- B) It engages emotional and contextual processing, making information more memorable**
- C) It simplifies complex ideas to the point of losing accuracy
- D) It is only effective for fictional content

14. The 'uncanny valley' in robotics and animation has conceptual parallels in literature when discussing:

- A) The use of archaic language
- B) Characters or situations that are almost, but not quite, human or familiar, causing unease**
- C) The predictability of plot twists
- D) The author's use of metaphors

15. Cognitive linguistics views metaphor not merely as a figure of speech but as:

- A) A rare stylistic device used by elite writers
- B) A fundamental way in which humans conceptualize and understand abstract ideas**
- C) An error in logical reasoning
- D) A purely decorative element in text

16. Studies in psychology of humor suggest that the enjoyment of irony in literature often stems from:

- A) The straightforward interpretation of events
- B) The contrast between expectation and reality, and the cognitive effort to resolve the discrepancy**
- C) The author's explicit explanation of the joke
- D) The use of universally understood symbols

17. The concept of 'affordances' in ecological psychology, applied to literary texts, could refer to:

- A) The cost of purchasing a book
- B) The opportunities and possibilities for action or interpretation that the text itself offers the reader**
- C) The author's intention to deceive the reader
- D) The physical properties of the paper and ink

18. The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, in its strong form, suggests that language:

- A) Has no influence on thought
- B) Determines thought and perception entirely**
- C) Influences thought but does not determine it
- D) Is a universal system independent of human cognition