Advanced Reading Comprehension Proficiency

English Literature And Literacy · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. Which literary term describes the technique of using a neutral or seemingly benign setting to highlight the tension in a darker narrative?

A) Pathetic fallacy
B) Juxtaposition
C) Atmospheric incongruity
D) Comic relief

2. In rhetorical analysis, what is the primary distinction between 'kairos' and 'chronos' in a text?

A) Quality vs quantity of time
B) Contextual timeliness vs linear progression
C) Subjectivity vs objectivity
D) Historical accuracy vs fictional pacing

3. Which structural element refers to the point in a narrative where the protagonist experiences a decisive shift in their understanding or circumstances?

A) Peripeteia
B) Anagnorisis
C) Deus ex machina
D) Hamartia

4. What is the linguistic definition of an 'elided' word in classical poetry or formal prose?

A) A word with multiple meanings
B) A word where a sound or letter is omitted
C) A word derived from archaic origins
D) A word used to transition between stanzas

5. In textual criticism, what does a 'lacuna' refer to?

A) A missing portion in a manuscript
B) A deliberate contradiction in the author's argument
C) A sudden change in rhyme scheme
D) The use of non-standard dialect

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6. Which rhetorical device is defined by the substitution of a part for a whole, such as 'wheels' representing a 'car'?

A) Metonymy
B) Synecdoche
C) Hyperbole
D) Litotes

7. What is the effect of an 'asystolic' sentence structure in a prose passage?

A) The absence of conjunctions for rhythmic acceleration
B) The use of excessive adjectives for descriptive density
C) The deliberate use of passive voice for detached tone
D) The inclusion of multiple subordinate clauses

8. Which term denotes a narrative style where the story is told by a narrator whose credibility is compromised by ignorance or bias?

A) Limited omniscience
B) Unreliable narrator
C) Stream of consciousness
D) Objective correlative

9. What does the 'syntactic parallelism' technique aim to achieve in argumentative writing?

A) To create emotional distance
B) To establish rhythmic balance and structural emphasis
C) To conceal logical fallacies
D) To introduce complex sub-clauses

10. In the context of critical reading, what is a 'palimpsest' used metaphorically to describe?

A) A text that has been reworked while original traces remain visible
B) A narrative structured entirely around flashbacks
C) A document containing only encrypted information
D) A genre that blends fantasy and reality

11. What defines a 'proleptic' narrative device?

A) A chronological loop
B) A flash-forward or foreshadowing event
C) A philosophical digression
D) A sudden tonal shift in dialogue

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12. Which form of irony occurs when the audience possesses knowledge that the characters in a play or novel do not?

A) Situational irony
B) Verbal irony
C) Dramatic irony
D) Cosmic irony

13. What is the primary function of an 'epistolary' frame in a novel?

A) To provide a sense of authenticity via documents or letters
B) To maintain a strictly omniscient perspective
C) To eliminate the need for character development
D) To avoid the use of dialogue

14. In structuralist theory, what is 'binary opposition' meant to reveal in a text?

A) The author's hidden political agenda
B) The underlying conceptual conflicts that structure meaning
C) The difference between protagonist and antagonist
D) The transition from verse to prose

15. What term describes a line of verse that runs into the next line without a terminal punctuation mark?

A) Caesura
B) Enjambment
C) Stichomythia
D) Heroic couplet

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