

Name - _____

Start time - __ : __

End time - __ : __

Read the following excerpt from a play carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Excerpt from the Play "The Unseen Masks"

Sarah: A determined young journalist.

John: An enigmatic artist, Sarah's interviewee.

(Scene: Sarah's apartment. Sarah and John are sitting across from each other, engaged in a conversation.)

Sarah: (excitedly) So, Mr. John, your paintings have this mysterious quality, as if there's a hidden story behind every stroke. Can you tell me, what inspires your art?

John: (smiling) Ah, inspiration, the elusive muse. My paintings, you see, are born from the shadows of life. The unseen masks we wear, the emotions we conceal. I believe true art lies in revealing the concealed, not just on canvas but in life itself.

Sarah: (intrigued) That's profound, Mr. John. Your perspective is truly unique. How do you choose the subjects for your paintings?

John: (thoughtfully) Subjects, my dear, are like actors on a stage. They wear their masks too, but my task is to unveil what lies beneath. I find my subjects in the unspoken words, the unnoticed gestures, and the quiet moments where the soul is bared.

Sarah: (impressed) It sounds like you explore the human psyche through your art. How do you capture such depth?

John: (passionately) The depth, Ms. Sarah, comes from empathy. To understand the unspoken, one must feel what is not said, see what is hidden. Each brushstroke is an echo of the human experience, a whisper of the heart's secrets.

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Questions:

1. Describe Sarah's tone and demeanor as she conducts the interview. How does she respond to John's words?
2. Analyze John's metaphor comparing subjects to actors on a stage. What does this metaphor reveal about his perspective on art and life?
3. Explain the significance of the phrase "revealing the concealed" in the context of John's philosophy on art. How does this idea connect to the overall theme of the play?
4. What does John mean by "each brushstroke is an echo of the human experience"? How does this statement reflect his approach to painting?
5. Discuss the theme of masks and hidden emotions in the play. How do these themes contribute to the characterization of John and the overall atmosphere of the scene?
6. Predict how Sarah might respond to John's ideas in the next part of the conversation. How might her questions or comments reflect her growing understanding of his perspective?
7. Imagine a continuation of the scene. How might the conversation between Sarah and John develop further, considering the depth of their discussion on art and human emotions?