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

Excerpt from the Play "Echoes of the Soul"

Alicia: A resilient woman haunted by her past.

Dr. Jackson: A compassionate psychiatrist, Alicia's therapist.

(Scene: Dr. Jackson's office. Alicia and Dr. Jackson sit across from each other, engaged in a therapy session.)

Alicia: (hesitant) I keep hearing echoes, Doctor. Echoes of the past that refuse to fade away. They haunt my dreams, my waking hours. I don't know how to silence them.

Dr. Jackson: (gentle) Alicia, echoes are the soul's way of revisiting what needs healing. We must confront them, understand their origin, and gently let them go. Tell me, what do these echoes say to you?

Alicia: (teary-eyed) They speak of lost innocence, of broken promises. They whisper fragments of a life I once knew. But the echoes are distorted, like a shattered mirror reflecting distorted images. I can't make sense of them.

Dr. Jackson: (compassionate) Healing is about rearranging those shattered pieces, Alicia. It's about finding the patterns amidst the chaos. Your echoes might be fragmented, but they are parts of your story. Embrace them, and together, we will decipher their meaning.

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Questions:

1. Interpret Dr. Jackson's metaphor about echoes being the soul's way of revisiting and healing. How does this metaphor provide a deeper understanding of the therapeutic process?
2. Discuss the symbolism of the shattered mirror in Alicia's description of the echoes. How does it represent her fragmented memories and emotions?
3. Explore the theme of confronting the past in the play. How does Alicia's willingness to confront her echoes signify her inner strength and resilience?
4. Predict how Dr. Jackson might guide Alicia in the next phase of therapy based on his compassionate and supportive approach in this session.
5. Imagine a continuation of the therapy session. How might Alicia's revelations about the echoes lead to a breakthrough in her healing process?
6. Reflect on the significance of the title "Echoes of the Soul." How does it capture the central themes of the play, and how might these themes unfold in the storyline?
7. Analyze the significance of the therapy setting in the play. How does the therapist-patient dynamic contribute to the exploration of Alicia's echoes and her path to healing?

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