

Name - _____

Start time - __ : __

End time - __ : __

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

Excerpt from the Play "The Masks We Wear"

Alice: A confident psychiatrist, trying to understand her patient's deep-rooted fears.

Daniel: A patient with a mysterious past, haunted by unseen terrors.

(Scene: Alice's office. Alice sits behind her desk, while Daniel paces anxiously.)

Alice: (compassionate) Daniel, you've mentioned these unseen masks before. Can you elaborate? What do these masks represent to you?

Daniel: (nervously) The masks... they're like the layers we put on to face the world. Beneath them, there's a darkness, a fear that engulfs me. I can't breathe, can't escape it.

Alice: (gentle) Your fear seems profound, Daniel. Let's talk about the masks. Are they a defense mechanism, a way to shield yourself from your past?

Daniel: (hesitant) Yes, in a way. But these masks, they also keep others safe. If they see what's beneath, they'll be as terrified as I am. It's a burden I bear alone.

Alice: (thoughtful) It's brave of you to confront these feelings, Daniel. But remember, facing our fears can lead to healing. We can work through this darkness together.

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Questions:

1. Analyze Alice's approach as a psychiatrist. How does she handle Daniel's fragile emotional state? Provide examples from the dialogue.
2. Explore the symbolism of the masks in Daniel's speech. What could these masks represent in the context of his character and the play as a whole?
3. Discuss the theme of fear in the excerpt. How does Daniel's fear manifest, and how does Alice respond to it? How might this theme be further explored in the play?
4. Examine the use of pacing as a stage direction for Daniel. How does his pacing contribute to the tension and atmosphere of the scene?
5. Reflect on Alice's statement, "If they see what's beneath, they'll be as terrified as I am." What does this reveal about Daniel's self-perception and his understanding of others?
6. Imagine an alternative ending to the scene. How might the conversation between Alice and Daniel evolve further? What revelations or confessions could come to light?
7. Explore the potential psychological implications of Daniel's fear. How might his fear impact his relationships, daily life, and overall well-being?