

Name - _____

Start time - __ : __

End time - __ : __

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

Excerpt from the Play "Shadows of Silence"

Lena: A passionate young pianist, determined to find her own voice in music.

Professor Davis: A renowned but strict music instructor, known for his uncompromising standards.

(Scene: Lena's music studio. Lena is playing the piano, her fingers dancing across the keys, lost in the melody. Professor Davis enters, observing her performance.)

Professor Davis: (impassive) You play well, Lena. But where is the soul? Where is your story in this music?

Lena: (defensive) I'm following the notes precisely, Professor. I've practiced for hours.

Professor Davis: (nodding) Precision is admirable, but it's not enough. Music is not about hitting the right keys; it's about evoking emotions, painting a canvas of feelings. Your technique is flawless, but your music lacks depth. Tell me, what do you feel when you play this piece?

Lena: (pausing) I... I'm not sure. I'm focused on the technique, on getting it right.

Professor Davis: (firmly) Technique is the foundation, yes. But without emotion, music is a lifeless corpse. Close your eyes, Lena. Forget the notes, forget the perfection. Feel the music, let it seep into your soul. Only then will your audience feel it too.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

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Questions:

1. Describe Lena's initial attitude toward her music. How does she perceive her playing, and what is her primary focus during her performance?
2. Analyze Professor Davis's critique of Lena's playing. What does he mean by "where is the soul" and "evoking emotions"? How does he emphasize the importance of emotion in music?
3. Explore Lena's response to Professor Davis's critique. How does she react to his words, and what internal conflict might she be experiencing regarding her approach to music?
4. Discuss the symbolism of the music in this scene. How does it represent Lena's journey as an artist, and what might the transformation from technical precision to emotional depth signify?
5. Predict how Lena's perspective on music might change after this conversation with Professor Davis. How might her playing style, attitude, and understanding of music evolve in the subsequent parts of the play?
6. Imagine a later scene where Lena applies Professor Davis's advice and plays the same piece again. How might her performance differ, both technically and emotionally? How would other characters react to her transformed playing?