

Identity Lens

Directions: Read the literary scenario and prompts. Use the vocabulary provided to write short, focused responses that connect word meaning to the theme of **identity and internal conflict**.



In a coming-of-age novel, the narrator describes living between two expectations. At home, family traditions define who the narrator should be. At school, social pressure rewards a very different version of success. As the story progresses, the narrator begins to question which version of the self is authentic and what is lost by choosing one identity over the other.

1. **alienation** - How does alienation develop for the narrator as expectations conflict? Explain how this feeling shapes the narrator's sense of belonging.
2. **conformity** - Why might conformity seem appealing to the narrator at first? Explain how conformity creates tension with personal identity.
3. **autonomy** - At what point does the narrator begin to seek autonomy? Explain why autonomy is risky but necessary in this story.

Analyzing Word Choice: Answer each question in 2 to 3 sentences.

1. The narrator describes living with a sense of **duality** rather than simply saying they feel confused. What does **duality** suggest about the narrator's identity struggle that a simpler word would not?
2. The author writes that emotions were managed through **repression** instead of control. What does **repression** imply about how the narrator handles inner conflict?

Theme Application: Answer in 3 to 4 sentences.

self-perception: Explain how changes in the narrator's self-perception help reveal the novel's message about identity. Use at least one detail from the scenario to support your answer.
