LITERARY HUB ***PYGMALION*** *by George Bernard Shaw*

Shaw's works The long career of George Bernard Shaw, the Irish dramatist and socialist campaigner, spanned both the Victorian age and the early 20th century. Shaw wrote over 50 plays, most of which deal with moral and social problems.

The plot In Pygmalion Professor Higgins has been teaching Cockney flower seller Eliza Doolittle to speak and act like a lady. For a bet with his friend Colonel Pickering, Higgins hopes to trick London's high society into believing that Eliza is an aristocrat. In this scene he introduces her to his mother and to her upper-class friends, the Eynslord Hills.

1. Read the text. Can you spot any differences between the discussers?

PYGMALION

MRS HIGGINS: Will it rain, do you think?
ELIZA: The shallow depression in the west of these islands is likely to move slowly in an easterly direction. There are no indication s of any great change in the barometrical situation.
FREDDY: Ha! Ha! How awfully funny!
ELIZA: What is wrong with that, young man? I bet I go t it right.
FREDDY: Killing1!
MRS EYNSFORD HILL: I'm sure I hope it won't turn cold. There's so much influenza about. It runs right through our whole family regularly every spring.
ELIZA: My aunt died of influenza: so they said.
MRS EYNSFORD HILL (clicks her tongue sympathetically)
ELIZA: But it's my belief they done the old woman in2.
MRS HIGGINS: Done her in?
ELIZA: Y-e-e-e-es. Lord love you! Why should she die of influenza? She come through3 diphtheria right enough the year before. I saw her with my own eyes. Fairly blue with it, she was. They all thought she was dead: but my father he kept ladling4 gin down her throat til she came to5 so sudden that she bit the bowl off the spoon.
MRS EYNSFORD HILL: Dear me!
ELIZA: What call6 would a woman with that strength in her have to die of influenza? What become of7 her new straw hat that should have come to me? Somebody pinched8 it; and what I say is, them as pinched it done her in9.
MRS EYNSFORD HILL: What does doing her in mean?
HIGGINS: Oh, that's the new small talk10. To do a person in means to kill them.
MRS EYNSFORD HILL: You surely don't believe that your aunt was killed?
ELIZA: Do I not! Them11 she lived with would have killed her for a hat-pin, let alone a hat.
MRS EYNSFORD HILL: But it can't have been right for your father to pour spirits down her throat like that. It might have killed her.
ELIZA: Not her. Gin was mother's milk to her. Besides, he'd poured so much down his own throat that he knew the good of it.
MRS EYNSFORD HILL: Do you mean that he drank?
ELIZA: Drank! My word! Something chronic12.
MRS EYNSFORD HILL: How dreadful for you!
ELIZA: Not a bit. It never did him no harm what I could see. But then he did not keep it up regular. On the burst13, as you might say. From time to time.... (to Freddy, who is in convulsions of suppressed laughter) Here! What are you sniggering14 at?
FREDDY: The new small talk. You do it so awfully well.
ELIZA: If I was doing it proper, what was you laughing at? Have I said anything I oughtn't?
MRS HIGGINS: Not at all, Miss Doolittle.
ELIZA: Well, that's a mercy15, anyhow. What I always say is ...

HIGGINS: (rising and looking at his watch) Ahem!
ELIZA: Well: I must go. So pleased to have met you. Good-bye.
MRS HIGGINS: Good-bye.
ELIZA: Good-bye. Colonel Pickering.
PIKKERING: Good-bye, Miss Doolittle.
ELIZA: Good-bye, all.
FREDDY: Are you walking across the Park, Miss Doolittle? If so ...
ELIZA: Walk! Not bloody likely16(sensation). I am going in a taxi.

From Pygmalion, Act III

2. Choose the correct answer:

1. Who is the author of the play Pygmalion?
   a) William Shakespeare
   b) Bernard Shaw
   c) Jack London
   d) Mark Twain
2. Which of the following identifies a theme from Pygmalion?
   a) All of the answers are correct
   b) Stereotypes
   c) Social class
   d) Appearance vs. reality
3. Which of the following describes Professor Higgins' personality in Pygmalion?
   a) All of the answers are correct
   b) Kind
   c) Gentle
   d) Arrogant
4. What does incorrigible mean?
   a) involving much bloodshed
   b) respectful, polite
   c) not able to be corrected
   d) formal charge
5. How do Pickering and Henry try to excuse Eliza's conversation skills?
   a) they call it the "new small talk"
   b) they ask her to stop and escort her from the room
   c) Mrs. Higgins makes excuses for her
6. What can we infer about Eliza based on her progress with Higgins?
   a) she is intelligent
   b) she is stubborn
   c) she no longer cares about her goal
7. What is Shaw trying to teach the audience from Clara's reaction to "the new small talk"?
   a) Clara looks up to Eliza
   b) Clara is a member of the upper class
   c) Higgins is interested in marrying Clara
   d) People will do anything to try to fit in

3. Watch the video and do the test

Taken from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=af9I9Ca0LZ8

1. The plot of Pygmalion	a) Pygmalion explores class conflicts: conflicts between an ideology that believes class attributes are in-born (nature) versus Higgins's belief that he can teach class to Eliza (nurture) and pass her off as a

	lady.
2. Who is the flower girl in Pygmalion?	b) concerns a bet made by Henry Higgins, a professor of phonetics, that in six months he can train a bedraggled Cockney flower girl to pass as a duchess.
3. What is the theme of Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw?	c) Higgins is concerned about what may happen when Eliza's lessons are finished.
4. What is the conflict in Pygmalion?	d) The major themes from Shaw's Pygmalion include language, social status, and transformation.
5. What is Higgins concerned about in tis part of his book?	e) Eliza Doolittle.