

1) Reading



*READ THE TEXT QUITE QUICKLY. ONLY PAUSE TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW
ACCORDING TO YOUR TASKS.*

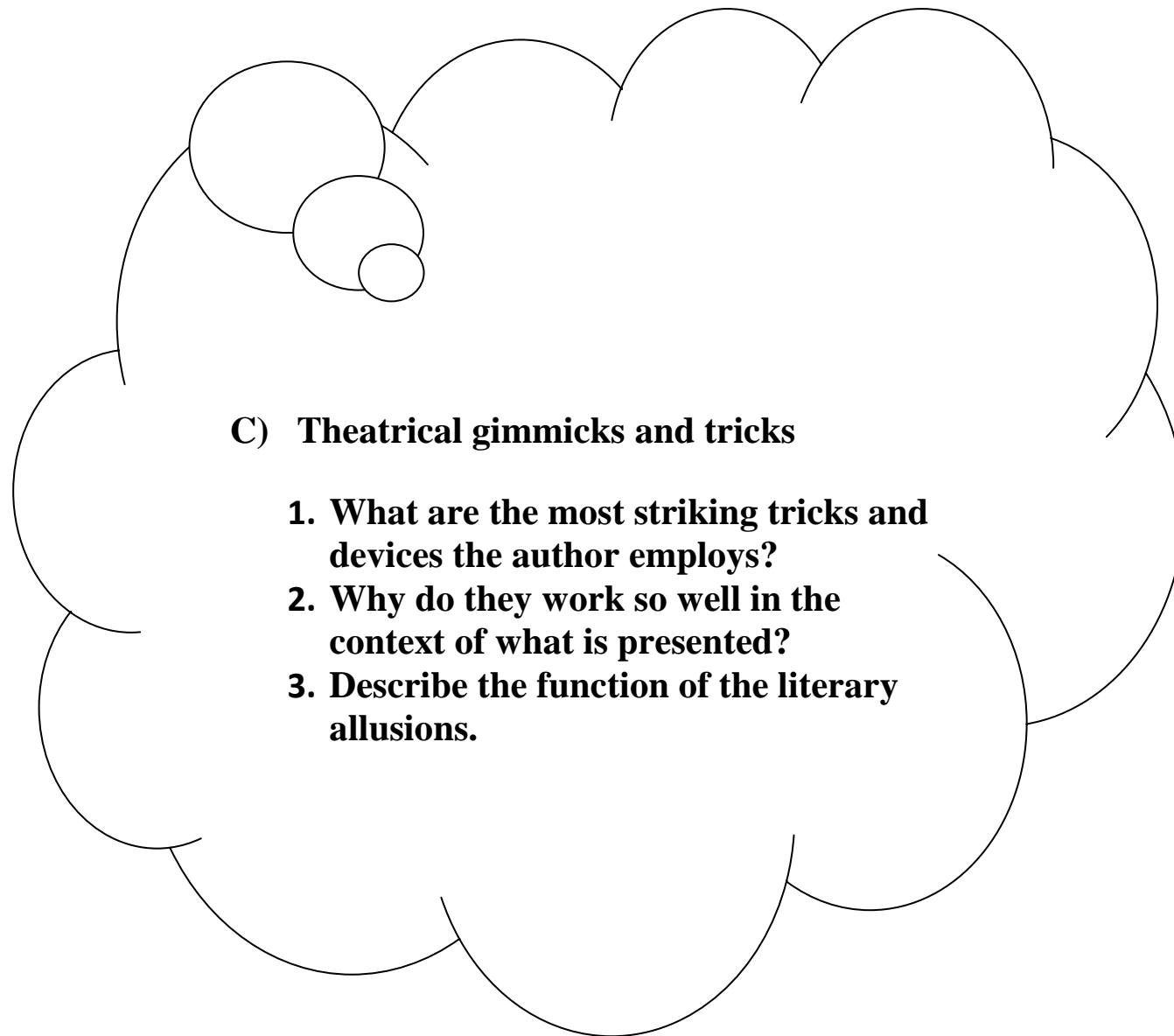
A) The play-within-a play

- 1. What makes this play so funny? What made you laugh? What kind of humour dominates?**
- 2. How do the protagonists act and react? What is real and what is fake? Describe the significance of the two levels.**
- 3. Describe the difference between Birdboot's behaviour off and on stage.**
- 4. Describe the different attitudes of the two literary critics.**
- 5. Write a short summary of level 1: The two critics**
- 6. Write a short summary of level 2: The play**
- 7. Write a short summary of the mixed levels.**



B)

What did the author have in mind? The characters in the play.

- 1. Why did Stoppard use the play-within-the-play convention?**
- 2. What kind of characterization does the author use? Describe the characters in the play. Show how they develop. Is there any individualization in a farce like this?**
- 3. What are the author's intentions?**



1. “Be a literary Sherlock Holmes”

-  Try to find some of the most striking literary allusions in the play (Christie, Shakespeare, farce, Literary Criticism).
-  Present your findings and explain their relevance for the play.

2. “Be a literary expert”

- Look up the terms „farce“ and „crime/detective novel“.
- Give short definitions of the terms. What kind of twist do they add to the play?
- Write a missing scene based on your findings

3. “A mysterious affair...”

- ❖ Read the extract from A. Christie’s novel „A mysterious Affair at Styles”.
- ❖ Write a short summary. Try to work out the differences between the two denouements.
- ❖ Concentrate on the last chapter only.

4. „The Art of Theatre“

- ❖ Your reading experience: The characters, the tone and the style of the play ?

Use your annotations and “How to pages” to choose the correct terminology.

- ❖ Theatre in London’s West End. Report.
- ❖ Identify the relation between the mode of presentation and some of the main ideas of the play.
- ❖ Read a review and write one about this play