

VOCABULARY QUIZ (Based on [The New York Times movie review of *Sunset Boulevard*](#))

Find the meaning of the underlined words.

1. Charles Brackett and Billy Wilder (with an assist from D. M. Marshman, Jr.) have written a powerful story of the ambitions and frustrations that combine to make life in the cardboard city so fascinating to the outside world.
 - a. Paper
 - b. Stupid
 - c. Fake
 - d. Amazing
2. But it is such a clever compound of truth and legend—and is so richly redolent of the past, yet so contemporaneous—that it seemingly speaks with great authority
 - a. Important/clever
 - b. Tolerant/demanding
 - c. Ridiculous/conspicuous
 - d. Full/Present
3. Gloria Swanson was coaxed out of long retirement to portray the pathetic, forgotten film queen, Norma Desmond.
 - a. Was forced to come out
 - b. Was persuaded to come out
 - c. Was threatened to come out
 - d. Was manipulated to come out
4. As the wealthy, egotistical relic desperately yearning to hear again the plaudits of the crowd, Miss Swanson dominates the picture.
 - a. Breath of fresh air/laughter
 - b. Crazy woman/scorn
 - c. Old person/applause
 - d. Prisoner/critics
5. Her presence is felt like the heavy scent of tuberose which hangs over the gloomy, musty splendor of her memento-cluttered mansion in Beverly Hills.
 - a. Object of memories
 - b. Statues
 - c. Trash
 - d. Photo albums
6. Gradually his self-respect is corroded by easy comforts and he does nothing strenuous to thwart her unsubtle romantic blandishments.
 - a. Worth doing/dinners
 - b. Possible/interests
 - c. Good/gifts
 - d. Exhausting/persuasion
7. With uncommon skill, Brackett and Wilder, who also produced and directed this splendid drama for Paramount Pictures, have kept an essentially tawdry romance from becoming distasteful and embarrassing.
 - a. High quality/low quality
 - b. Low quality/ high quality
 - c. Boring/classy
 - d. Distasteful/embarrassing
8. And the fantastic, Babylonian atmosphere of an incredible past is reflected sharply in the gaudy elegance of the decaying mansion in which Norma Desmond lives.
 - a. Hedonistic
 - b. Exciting
 - c. Pathetic
 - d. Poor
9. One always thinks first and mostly of Miss Swanson, of her manifestation of consuming pride, her forlorn despair, and a truly magnificent impersonation of Charlie Chaplin.
 - a. Unbelievable/comments about
 - b. Charismatic/jokes about
 - c. Sad/imitation of
 - d. Impossible/statements about
10. Sunset Boulevard is a great motion picture, marred only slightly by the fact that the authors permit Joe Gillis to take us into the story of his life after his bullet-ridden body is lifted out of Norma Desmond's swimming pool.
 - a. Ruined
 - b. Simplified
 - c. Made better
 - d. Deleted