Phantom of the Opera: Performance Task

**Overarching EQ:** Can fiction reveal truth? How do stories reveal truths about human nature?

**Topical EQ:** To what extent do you agree that everyone wears a mask to hide parts of their true selves?

### Task 1: Photograph of Mask

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notices:</th>
<th>Wonders:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image_url" alt="Mask Image" /></td>
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**Reflection:** Look back at the photograph for task 1. What does the shape, style, and details of the mask tell you about the person who would be wearing it? Discuss shape, tone, emotions evoked, and “personality” the mask evokes.

### Task 2: Identity Video by KJ Adames

As you watch the video, write down your thoughts, connections, and questions regarding the topical essential question:

**Identity Video Hotlink**

![QR Code](image_url)
Task 3: Poem by Charles Finn: Please Hear what I’m Not Saying

Poem Hotlink

First Reading:
1) Highlight (first color) words/passages that connect to you, and annotate to the side what your thoughts and connections are.

Second Reading:
2) Highlight (in a different color) the words/passages that connect to the Phantom text, and annotate to the side what your thoughts and connections are.

Text Dependent Questions:
1) In line 6, what does the author describe pretending as? Why does he use this word instead of “skill” or “job”?

2) The author repeats the phrase “beneath lies…” twice in lines 18 and 19 to focus your attention on certain feelings, and goes on to explain his mask “shields (him) from the glance that knows” those feelings. What is he “shielding himself” from?

3) Re-read stanza 3 beginning with “but such a glance..” Which words and phrases in this stanza directly relate to Erik and his reasons for wearing a literal mask?

4) The author closes stanza 4 with the phrase “what I can’t say”. What in the poem so far describes what you believe it is that he “can’t say”?

5) In stanza 5, the author begins to use second person point of view. What words or phrases from this stanza explain why he decides to include the reader during this section?

6) In stanza 6, the author describes a “shadow-world”. In what ways does this apply directly to Erik, his history and his current life?

7) In stanza 7, we see the word “conviction” and the second reference to “strong walls” as in a prison or jail. What is his purpose for using these specific, strongly connotative words?

8) Which line of this poem do you most agree with? Which line do you most disagree with?

9) The author uses repetition numerous times in this poem. Please select one or more examples of this repetition, and describe the effect of the repetition on the tone of the poem.
Brainstorm/Leading Questions: When did Erik start to wear a mask? What caused Erik to wear a mask? **Was it only his face?** What part(s) of Erik does he choose to hide from everyone? What parts does he try to share with Christine? What is Erik afraid of? What causes Erik to hide parts of himself? Do you believe **everyone** have something to hide?

Reflect on TEQ: Using specific references to the initial picture, Identity video, poem by Charles Finn, and your answers above, please respond to the topical essential question:

**Topical Essential Question:** To what extent do you agree that everyone wears a mask to hide parts of their true selves?
Charles Finn comments on the difference of “the surface” of a mask, as well as what lies “beneath” the mask. Carl Jung referred to these archetypes as the “persona”- the self we project on others, and the “shadow”- the side of ourselves we hide from the outside world.

Please comment about what the “surface/persona” of your mask might look like. What would you want people to see when they look at you? What words would you like them to think or say when they see you? What symbols might be on the outside of your mask to represent who you are and what is important to you?

Which (archetypal) colors would you associate with these words, feelings, and symbols? Why?

What lies “beneath” the mask is usually the reason why the mask develops. Charles Finn says:

\[
\text{Beneath lies no complacence.}
\]

\[
\text{Beneath lies confusion, and fear, and aloneness.}
\]

\[
\text{But I hide this. I don’t want anybody to know it.}
\]

\[
\text{I panic at the thought of my weakness exposed.}
\]

\[
\text{That’s why I frantically create a mask to hide behind,}
\]

\[
\text{a nonchalant sophisticated facade,}
\]

\[
\text{to help me pretend.}
\]

Begin brainstorming about the “inside” of your mask- what lies “beneath” the surface that people get to see. When you see the words Charles Finn uses to describe the emotions we hide, what connections does this invoke in you?

The “shadow” (back/inside) of your mask conceals the parts of ourselves which we do not wish to share with others. One can argue that there are parts of everyone’s lives in which we hide, guard, and don’t share- we put on “masks” to protect ourselves from scrutiny and judgement of others. Which words, emotions, symbols, or colors would be fitting for the “inside” of your mask?