Directions: Analyze each of the following quotations. Describe the context of each quote within the framework of the play as a whole. Who says each quote? What is the significance? How does each influence the play and the characters? What is the argument Pirandello is making? How do these arguments lend themselves to the cubist/surrealist movement? Be specific with each.

1. “A character, sir, may always ask a man who he is. Because a character has really a life of his own, marked with his especial characteristics; for which reason he is always "somebody." But a man—I'm not speaking of you now—may very well be ‘nobody.”

2. “Oh, if you would only go away, go away and leave us alone—mother here with that son of hers—I with that Child—that Boy there always alone—and then I alone, alone in those shadows!”

3. “We have this illusion of being one person for all, of having a personality that is unique in all our acts. But it isn't true. We perceive this when, tragically perhaps, in something we do, we are as it were, suspended, caught up in the air on a kind of hook. We perceive that all of us was not in that act, and that it would be an atrocious injustice to judge us by that action alone, as if all our existence were summed up in that one deed.”

4. “Yes, but haven't you perceived that it isn't possible to live in front of a mirror which not only freezes us with the image of ourselves, but throws our likeness back at us with a horrible grimace?”

5. “She isn't a woman, she is a mother.”