OBJECTIVE

After analyzing SYMBOLISM of the "Pachuco" in Luis Valdez's play Zoot Suit students will be able to identify themes about identity conveyed by internal and external conflicts of the play's plot.

What does the introduction reveal about the "Pachuco's" symbolic value?

Ladies and gentlemen
the play you are about to see
is a construct of fact and fantasy.
The Pachuco Style was an act in Life
and his language a new creation.
His will to be was an awesome force
eluding all documentation . . .
A mythical, quizzical, frightening being
precursor of revolution
Or a piteous, hideous heroic joke
deserving of absolution?
I speak as an actor on the stage.
The Pachuco was existential
for he was an Actor in the streets
both profane and reverential.
It was the secret fantasy of every bato
in or out of the Chicanada*
to put on a Zoot Suit and play the Myth

What does the quote show about Henry's motivation to adopt the "pachuco" persona?

HENRY: Maybe wanting too much out of life, see? Ever since I was a kid, I've had this feeling like there's a big party going on someplace, and I'm invited, but I don't know how to get there. And I want to get there so bad, I'll even risk my life to make it. Sounds crazy, huh?