

8.3 Word choice, comparisons, and syntax

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

KEY WORDS positions the reader 定位读者 • style 文体

Objective

Build the skills to analyse how style **positions the reader** 定位读者.

You must be able to:

- explain how pronoun choice includes or excludes a reader
- describe the effect of a rhetorical question
- explain what a shift in register does mid-passage
- link a stylistic move to the audience it targets

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Pronouns position

“We” enrols the reader in the writer’s position before any argument is made; “they” places a group outside it. A single pronoun can do more assigning than a paragraph of description.

■ Rhetorical questions

A question the writer answers themselves controls the reader’s next thought. One left unanswered implies that no answer is needed — which is a claim, not a question.

■ Register shifts

Dropping from formal to plain speech marks a moment as sincere or urgent; the opposite marks it as authoritative. Where the shift falls tells you what the writer wants weighted.

2 Practice

2.1 State what “we” does to a reader. [2]

2.2 Explain what an unanswered rhetorical question implies. [2]

2.3 A formal passage drops into plain speech for one sentence.

(a) State the likely effect. [1]

(b) State how you would link it to purpose. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 “They” applied to a group of people mainly [1]

A	B
C	D

A includes them in the writer’s position

B places them outside it

C has no effect

D signals concession

3.2 A rhetorical question left unanswered functions as [1]

A	B
C	D

A a genuine enquiry

B a claim

C a qualification

D a transition

3.3 A speech uses “we” throughout and switches to “you” in its final paragraph.

(a) State what the switch does. [1]

(b) Explain why it might come at the end. [2]
