

Exercise walk-through

1.1

What textual details reveal about a character

AP English Literature and Composition

What Textual Details Reveal About a Character

AP English Literature reads texts in three genres across nine units – **short fiction, poetry, and longer fiction or drama**, each visited three times at increasing difficulty. Unit 1 installs the tools for all of them.

- **Description, dialogue, and behaviour** reveal characters to readers.
- Descriptions may come from a **speaker, narrator, other characters, or the characters themselves** – so who is describing is part of the evidence.
- **Perspective** is **how narrators, characters, or speakers understand their circumstances**, informed by background, experience, and values.
- A character's perspective is **both shaped and revealed by relationships** with other characters, the environment, and events.

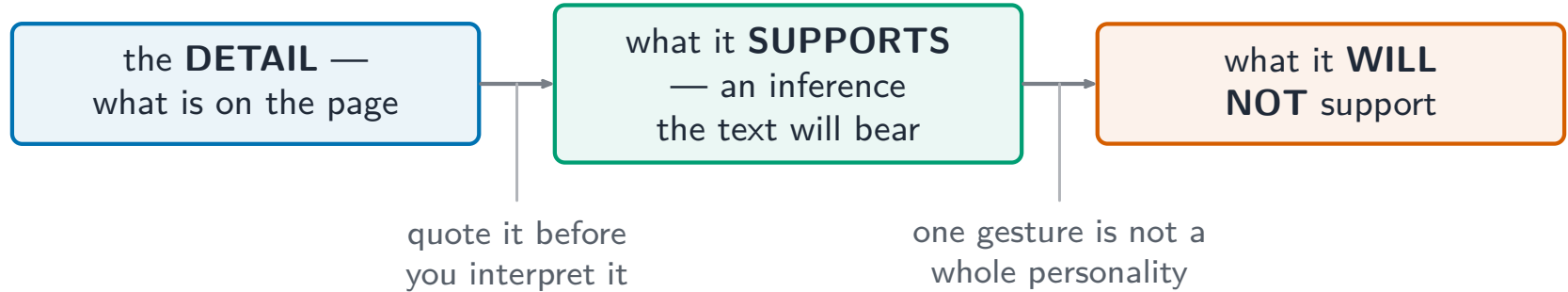
What Textual Details Reveal About a Character, continued

Original teaching passage — not an exam extract

On the last evening before the station closed, I waited beside its locked ticket window. “You could still post it,” Mara said. I folded the letter until her name disappeared inside.

“There is nothing left to say,” I told her. Years later, I call that silence kindness. Mara’s answer, if she gave one, is the part I no longer remember.

How far a detail goes



Keep interpretation within the evidence. Say what the detail **establishes**, and stop where the evidence stops

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Name the three things that reveal characters.

[3]

2.2 Define perspective and name what informs it.

[2]

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Name the three things that reveal characters. [3]

2.1

- description; dialogue; behavior
-

2.2 Define perspective and name what informs it. [2]

2.2

- how narrators, characters or speakers understand their circumstances; informed by background, personality traits, biases and relationships

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 A character is described by a rival.

(a) State what this reveals besides the character described.

[1]

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2.3 A character is described by a rival.

(a) State what this reveals besides the character described.

[1]

(a)

- the rival's own perspective and biases

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 A character is described by a rival.

(b) Explain why the source of a description matters.

[2]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 A character is described by a rival.

(b) Explain why the source of a description matters.

[2]

(b)

- a description is a character's view of another, so it is evidence about the describer as well as the described

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Perspective is informed by background, personality traits, relationships and [1]

- ☐ **A** biases
B page count
C publication date
D genre

3.2 A character's perspective is described as [1]

- ☐ **A** only shaped by relationships
B both shaped and revealed by them
C only revealed by them
D independent of them

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Perspective is informed by background, personality traits, relationships and [1]

- ☐ **A** biases
B page count
C publication date
D genre

3.1 A

- biases are the CED's fourth item

3.2 A character's perspective is described as [1]

- ☐ **A** only shaped by relationships
B both shaped and revealed by them
C only revealed by them
D independent of them

3.2 B

- both, in the CED's own wording

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A story shows a character speaking kindly and acting cruelly.

(a) State which two channels are in play.

[1]

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A story shows a character speaking kindly and acting cruelly.

(a) State which two channels are in play.

[1]

(a)

- dialogue and behavior

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A story shows a character speaking kindly and acting cruelly.

(b) Explain what the contradiction gives a reader.

[2]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A story shows a character speaking kindly and acting cruelly.

(b) Explain what the contradiction gives a reader.

[2]

(b)

- evidence that the character's words and actions diverge, which is more informative than either channel alone