

Exercise walk-through

4.1

What textual details reveal about a character

AP English Literature and Composition

What Textual Details Reveal About a Character

Unit 4 returns to short fiction with a much larger toolkit. Its two most valuable additions are **narrative distance** and the idea that **choices reveal values**.

- The significance of characters is often revealed through their **agency** and through **nuanced descriptions**.
- **Characters' choices – in speech, action, and inaction – reveal what they value**.

What Textual Details Reveal About a Character, continued

That second statement is the most practical sentence in the whole course for essay-writing.

Whenever you need a claim about a character, look at a choice and ask what it must be true for that choice to have made sense to them.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 State how a character's significance is revealed.

[2]

2.2 Name the three things through which choices reveal values.

[3]

Exercises 2.1-2.2

2.1 State how a character's significance is revealed.

[2]

2.1

- through their agency and through nuanced descriptions

2.2 Name the three things through which choices reveal values.

[3]

2.2

- speech; action; inaction

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 Inaction is a choice.

(a) Explain why.

[2]

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 Inaction is a choice.

(a) Explain why.

[2]

(a)

- declining to act selects one outcome over another, which is what a choice is

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Inaction is a choice.

(b) Define agency.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Inaction is a choice.

(b) Define agency.

[1]

(b)

- a character's capacity to act on their situation

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Significance is revealed through agency and

[1]

☐

A nuanced descriptions

B page length

C publication date

D the title

3.2 The item students most often miss is

[1]

☐

A speech

B inaction

C action

D description

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Significance is revealed through agency and

[1]

☐

A nuanced descriptions

B page length

C publication date

D the title

3.1 A

- nuanced descriptions

3.2 The item students most often miss is

[1]

☐

A speech

B inaction

C action

D description

3.2 B

- inaction

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A character stays silent while a friend is blamed.

(a) State what has been revealed.

[1]

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A character stays silent while a friend is blamed.

(a) State what has been revealed.

[1]

(a)

- something the character values more than the friend's defence

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A character stays silent while a friend is blamed.

(b) Explain how a reader defends that reading.

[2]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A character stays silent while a friend is blamed.

(b) Explain how a reader defends that reading.

[2]

(b)

- show the character could have spoken and that the text marks the silence rather than passing over it