

Exercise walk-through

6.8

How a narrator's reliability affects a narrative

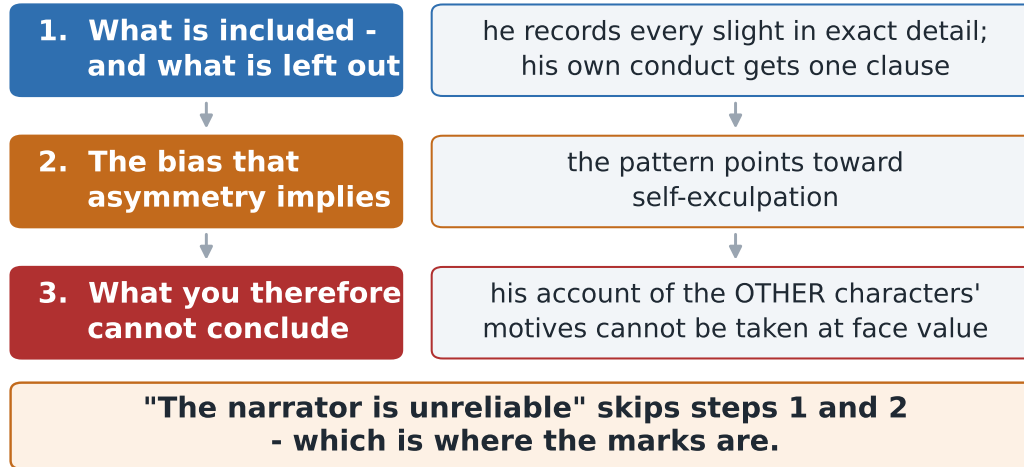
AP English Literature and Composition

Reliability is judged from inside the text

- **Readers can infer narrators' biases** by noting **which details they choose to include** and which they omit.
- **Readers who detect bias in a narrator may find that narrator less reliable** .
- **The reliability of a narrator may influence a reader's understanding of a character's motives.**

Reliability is judged from inside the text, in detail

Reliability is judged from the text, in three steps



Bias is inferred from what is included and omitted. Detected bias reduces reliability. Reduced reliability changes what you can conclude about motive

How a Narrator's Reliability Affects a Narrative

- Readers can infer narrators' biases by noting which details they choose to include and which they omit.
- **Readers who detect bias in a narrator may find that narrator less reliable** .
- The reliability of a narrator may influence a reader's understanding of a character's motives.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 State how readers can infer a narrator's biases.

[2]

2.2 State what reliability influences.

[2]

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 State how readers can infer a narrator's biases.

[2]

2.1

- by noting which details they choose to include and which they choose to omit

2.2 State what reliability influences.

[2]

2.2

- a reader's understanding of a character's motives

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 Unreliable is not the same as lying.

(a) Name three other possibilities.

[3]

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2.3 Unreliable is not the same as lying.

(a) Name three other possibilities.

[3]

(a)

- mistaken; self-deceived; too young to understand; reporting honestly from a limited position

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Unreliable is not the same as lying.

(b) State the force of “may find that narrator less reliable”.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Unreliable is not the same as lying.

(b) State the force of “may find that narrator less reliable”.

[1]

(b)

- detecting bias is a reason for caution rather than an automatic verdict

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Bias is inferred from which details a narrator includes and

[1]

☐

A which they omit

B how long the book is

C the publisher

D the date

3.2 Reliability may influence a reader's understanding of a character's

[1]

☐

A motives

B name

C age

D height

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Bias is inferred from which details a narrator includes and

[1]

- ☐ **A** which they omit
B how long the book is
C the publisher
D the date

3.1 A

- what they omit

3.2 Reliability may influence a reader's understanding of a character's

[1]

- ☐ **A** motives
B name
C age
D height

3.2 A

- motives

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A child narrator reports events she does not understand.

(a) State whether she is lying.

[1]

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A child narrator reports events she does not understand.

(a) State whether she is lying.

[1]

(a)

- no

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A child narrator reports events she does not understand.

(b) Explain how an analysis should describe her.

[2]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A child narrator reports events she does not understand.

(b) Explain how an analysis should describe her.

[2]

(b)

- as an unreliable narrator whose limitation is comprehension rather than honesty, so the reader reconstructs what she reports without understanding