Exercise walk-through

9.4
The function of conflict in a text

AP English Literature and Composition

Three things to establish about any ending

Establish	What it is	How to use it
1. The denouement	the resolution of the suspense or the central conflicts	say what was settled, and for whom
2. What is never shown	an unseen character, or an action before the first page	use what the text says; do not invent the missing scene
3. Whether it resolves at all	some plots end unresolved	an unresolved ending is a choice, not a failure to finish

> Connect the ending to your reading of the **whole** work. Try both a resolution reading and a qualified reading before choosing your claim.

Your turn: one ending, two questions

Distinguish two questions

Leah returns to the factory. Does that resolve the whole conflict? Separate the practical work question from the demand for an explanation. Identify what the text actually supplies for each.

The Function of Conflict in a Text

Settled	Leah goes back to the factory on Monday.
Unreported	The inquiry decision and the accident itself are not presented.
Continuing pressure	The jar remains in the final sentence, preserving the material concern.
Interpretation	The practical response coexists with an unresolved demand for explanation.

> Offstage evidence means the text's references to an event, not an imagined reconstruction of it.

Three ways a conflict ends

RESOLVED	UNRESOLVED	DISSOLVED
a central question is answered or a conflict settled	the conflict stands, and the text ends anyway	the original stakes lose force or are reframed

The second and third are not failures of plot. Check which questions remain open and what the ending emphasizes instead

> Monday settles whether Leah returns to work while leaving the inquiry unreported. Different questions can have different outcomes.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Define catharsis in the CED's terms. [2]

2.2 State what unseen elements may do. [2]

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Define catharsis in the CED's terms. [2]

2.1

- the resolution of the anticipation, suspense or central conflicts of a plot, also called the moment of emotional release

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2.2 State what unseen elements may do. [2]

2.2

- things not shown, such as an unseen character or a preceding action, may be in conflict with or result in conflict for a character

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 Some endings are unresolved.

(a) State the CED's claim. [2]

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 Some endings are unresolved.

(a) State the CED's claim. [2]

(a)

- most plots resolve their central conflicts, but some endings are unresolved and the lack of resolution may contribute to interpretations

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Some endings are unresolved.

(b) Explain why the absence can be meaningful. [1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Some endings are unresolved.

(b) Explain why the absence can be meaningful. [1]

(b)

- the withholding is a choice that says something about the conflict

Exercises 3.1·3.2

3.1 Catharsis is the resolution of anticipation, suspense or [1]

- **A** central conflicts
- **B** page numbers
- **C** allusions
- **D** rhyme

3.2 The CED says lack of resolution [1]

- **A** may contribute to interpretations of the text
- **B** is always a flaw
- **C** never occurs
- **D** ends the analysis

Exercises 3.1·3.2

3.1 Catharsis is the resolution of anticipation, suspense or [1]

- ☐ **A** central conflicts
- **B** page numbers
- **C** allusions
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3.1 A

- central conflicts

3.2 The CED says lack of resolution [1]

- ☐ **A** may contribute to interpretations of the text
- **B** is always a flaw
- **C** never occurs
- **D** ends the analysis

3.2 A

- it may contribute to interpretation

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A novel ends without settling its central conflict.

(a) State what the reader is denied. [1]

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A novel ends without settling its central conflict.

(a) State what the reader is denied. [1]

(a)

- the catharsis or emotional release

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A novel ends without settling its central conflict.

(b) Explain what the denial may say about the conflict. [2]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A novel ends without settling its central conflict.

(b) Explain what the denial may say about the conflict. [2]

(b)

- that the conflict may not be the kind that admits resolution, so a settled ending would have misrepresented it