

6 Reliability and interrupted chronology – Part 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English

Write it 3 times (English)

Flashback

in medias res

Recall

- You have read a story that started at the end.
- You know a narrator can leave things out.
- You have suspected a storyteller of making themselves look good.

New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice below.

■ 1 Inferring bias

Readers infer a narrator's biases from which details they include and which they omit. A reader who detects bias **may** find the narrator less reliable - detecting bias is a reason for caution, not a verdict.

Worked example. A narrator who gives two pages to a dinner and one line to a death has told you their priorities.

■ 2 Unreliable is not lying

An unreliable narrator may be mistaken, self-deceived, too young to understand, or reporting honestly from a limited position. The analysis should say which.

Worked example. A child narrator reporting events she does not understand is unreliable and entirely honest.

■ 3 Interrupted chronology

Flashback , foreshadowing, **in medias res** and stream of consciousness interrupt a plot's chronology, creating anticipation or suspense or building tension.

Worked example. A novel that opens with a funeral makes the reader read two hundred pages looking for its cause.

Watch out: A story told out of order has a teller who chose that order. Interrupted chronology always raises the question of who is arranging this, and why.

Practice

2.1 State how readers infer a narrator's biases. [2]

2.2 State the force of 'may find that narrator less reliable'. [2]

2.3 Name three reasons a narrator may be unreliable without lying. [3]

2.4 Name the four structures that interrupt chronology. [2]

2.5 Name the three effects such structures can create. [3]
