9 Endings, resolutions, and changed narrators – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English	**Write it 3 times** (English)		
catharsis			
irony			

Recall

- You have finished a novel and not known how to feel.
- You know an ending can withhold what it promised.
- You have reread a first chapter and found it different.

New ideas

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

■ 1 Catharsis and its absence

The resolution of a plot's suspense may be called **catharsis** or emotional release. Some plots end unresolved, and the lack of resolution may itself contribute to an interpretation.

Worked example. An unresolved ending withholds the release the reader was prepared for, which is a choice.

■ 2 Responses to the resolution

A character's response to the resolution reveals their values, and may be inconsistent with everything established earlier. At an ending a character has nothing left to gain by concealment.

Worked example. A cautious character acting recklessly on the last page has revealed

what the caution protected.

■ 3 A narrator who changes

A narrator may change over a text as a result of actions and interactions, and such changes may contribute to **irony** or complexity.

Worked example. A final chapter showing the earlier ones were self-serving gives every earlier page a second meaning.

Watch out: An unresolved ending is not a failed ending. Ask what kind of conflict it was, and whether a settled ending would have misrepresented it.

Practice

2.1 Define catharsis. [2]

2.2 State what the CED says about unresolved endings. [2]

2.3 State what a character's response to the resolution reveals. [2]

2.4 Explain why an ending is strong evidence about a character. [2]

2.5 State what changes in a narrator's perspective may contribute to. [2]