

Exercise walk-through

What textual details reveal about a character ■ 2.1

eXercise

You must be able to

- name the five things through which characters reveal perspective
- explain why organisation of thinking is on the list
- apply the list to a poem's speaker
- distinguish this from unit 1's channels

Method — Five revealers

Characters reveal their perspectives and biases through **the words they use, the details they provide in the text, the organization of their thinking, the decisions they make, and the actions they take.**

Method — Organisation of thinking

The most useful item for poetry: how a speaker arranges an argument — what comes first, what is postponed, what is never reached — reveals a perspective that no single word does.

Method — In a poem

A poem's speaker may take no action at all, so the first three items carry most of the analysis. Word choice, selected detail and arrangement are what a lyric gives you.

Method — Against unit 1

1.1 named description, dialogue and behavior — the channels of a narrative. 2.1 names what a speaker does with language, which is what a poem has instead.

Practice 2.1 ■ 3 marks

Name the five things through which perspective is revealed.

Solution 2.1

Method: Five revealers

Worked steps

the words they use; the details they provide; the organization of their thinking; the decisions they make; the actions they take **B3**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain why organisation of thinking is useful in poetry.

Solution 2.2

Method: Organisation of thinking

Worked steps

how a speaker arranges an argument reveals a perspective **B1** that no single word does **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

A poem's speaker takes no action.

- (a) State which items carry the analysis.
- (b) State how 2.1 differs from 1.1.

Solution 2.3

Method: In a poem

Worked steps

(a) the words used, the details provided and the organization of thinking **B2**. (b) 1.1 names narrative channels; 2.1 names what a speaker does with language **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

“The organization of their thinking” reveals perspective through

A how an argument is arranged

B the poem's date

C the rhyme scheme alone

D the poet's biography

Solution 3.1

Method: Five revealers

A how an argument is arranged



B the poem's date

C the rhyme scheme alone

D the poet's biography

Worked steps

A. arrangement of an argument.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

In a lyric poem the analysis rests mainly on

- A** actions taken
- B** word choice, selected detail and arrangement
- C** dialogue between characters
- D** stage directions

Solution 3.2

Method: In a poem

- A actions taken
- B word choice, selected detail and arrangement 
- C dialogue between characters
- D stage directions

Worked steps

- B. the three language-based items.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A speaker mentions a death only in the last line.

- (a) State which of the five items this belongs to.
- (b) Explain what the placement reveals.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) the organization of the speaker's thinking **B1**. (b) the speaker has postponed the subject **B1**, which suggests reluctance or a wish to prepare the reader before naming it **B1**.