

Exercise walk-through

Significant events in a plot ■ 3.4

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what a narrative is delivered through
- name the three kinds of event the CED gives
- state what an event's significance depends on
- explain why significance is relational

Method — Delivery

A story, or narrative, is delivered through a series of events that relate to a conflict. Events without a relation to the conflict are not the plot's business.

Method — Three kinds

Episodes, encounters and scenes — events in a narrative that can introduce and develop a plot.

Method — Significance

The significance of an event depends on its relationship to the narrative, the conflict, and the development of characters. Three relationships, and an event may be significant through any of them.

Method — Relational

Significance is not a property of an event by itself. A quiet conversation can be the most significant scene in a novel if it changes what a character will do.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what a narrative is delivered through.

Solution 2.1

Method: Delivery

Worked steps

a series of events **B1** that relate to a conflict **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Name the three kinds of event and what they can do.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

episodes, encounters and scenes **B1**; they can introduce and develop a plot **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 3 marks

Significance is relational.

- (a) State the three relationships it depends on.
- (b) State why a quiet scene may be the most significant.

Solution 2.3

Method: Relational

Worked steps

(a) its relationship to the narrative; to the conflict; to the development of characters **B3**. (b) it may change what a character will do **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

The events of a narrative relate to

- A** a conflict
- B** the author's life
- C** the page count
- D** the publisher

Solution 3.1

Method: Delivery

A a conflict



B the author's life

C the page count

D the publisher

Worked steps

A. a conflict.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Significance is

A a property of an event alone

B relational

C decided by length

D decided by violence

Solution 3.2

A a property of an event alone

B relational 

C decided by length

D decided by violence

Worked steps

B. relational.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A novel's loudest scene changes nothing.

- (a) State its significance.
- (b) Explain the reasoning.

Solution 3.3

Method: Relational

Worked steps

(a) low, on the CED's criteria **B1**. (b) significance depends on the event's relationship to the narrative, the conflict and character development **B1**, and a scene changing none of them scores on none of the three **B1**.