

Exercise walk-through

The function of point of view ■ 4.9

eXercise

You must be able to

- define narrative distance and name its four components
- define stream of consciousness
- explain what a change in distance does
- use distance as an analytic term

Method — Narrative distance

Narrative distance refers to the physical distance, chronological distance, relationships, or emotional investment of the narrator to the events or characters of the narrative. Four components, and they can vary independently.

Method — Stream of consciousness

A type of narration in which a character's thoughts are related through a continuous dialogue or description. The distance is at its smallest: the reader is inside the thinking.

Method — Changes in distance

A narrator may stand close to one character and far from another, or close early and far later. Each change is a choice the analysis can name.

Method — As a term

“The narrator is distant” is vague. “The narrator is chronologically distant but emotionally invested” is precise and immediately suggests what the account will and will not contain.

Practice 2.1 ■ 3 marks

Define narrative distance and name its four components.

Solution 2.1

Method: Narrative distance

Worked steps

the narrator's relation to the events or characters **B1**; physical distance, chronological distance, relationships and emotional investment **B2**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Define stream of consciousness.

Solution 2.2

Method: Stream of consciousness

Worked steps

narration in which a character's thoughts are related **B1** through a continuous dialogue or description **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Distance can vary.

- (a) Name two ways it may vary within one text.
- (b) State why the four components should be named separately.

Solution 2.3

Method: Narrative distance

Worked steps

(a) any two of: close to one character and far from another; close early and far later; physically near but emotionally detached **B2**. (b) they vary independently, so a single word for distance is imprecise **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

In stream of consciousness the narrative distance is

A at its smallest

B at its greatest

C fixed

D irrelevant

Solution 3.1

Method: Stream of consciousness

A at its smallest



B at its greatest

C fixed

D irrelevant

Worked steps

A. the reader is inside the thinking.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Narrative distance includes physical, chronological, relational and

A emotional investment

B typographical

C commercial

D grammatical

Solution 3.2

Method: Narrative distance

A emotional investment



B typographical

C commercial

D grammatical

Worked steps

A. emotional investment.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A narrator writes fifty years later about a brother she loved.

- (a) Describe the distance precisely.
- (b) Explain what this predicts about the account.

Solution 3.3

Method: Changes in distance

Worked steps

(a) chronologically distant, emotionally invested **B1**. (b) it will have hindsight the events themselves did not **B1** and a warmth of judgment that a detached narrator would not supply **B1**.