

Exercise walk-through

What textual details reveal about a character ■ 6.1

eXercise

You must be able to

- state the three things different perspectives do
- explain why competing perspectives are not a fault
- use disagreement between characters as evidence
- resist deciding which character is right

Method — Three effects

Different character, narrator, or speaker perspectives often reveal different information, develop different attitudes, and influence different interpretations of a text and the ideas in it.

Method — Not a fault

A long text that lets two characters see the same event differently has not failed to decide; it has supplied a comparison. The disagreement is the material.

Method — As evidence

When two characters describe one event, the differences between the accounts are evidence about both of them — what each noticed, what each omitted, what each assumed.

Method — Not adjudicating

The analytical question is not who is right but what the difference shows. A text that supplies no way to settle the question is telling you the question is not the point.

Practice 2.1 ■ 3 marks

State the three things different perspectives do.

Solution 2.1

Method: Three effects

Worked steps

reveal different information **B1**; develop different attitudes **B1**; influence different interpretations **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain why competing perspectives are not a fault.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

the disagreement supplies a comparison **B1** rather than a failure to decide **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Two characters describe one event differently.

- (a) State what the differences are evidence about.
- (b) State the analytical question.

Solution 2.3

Method: As evidence

Worked steps

- (a) about both characters **B1** — what each noticed, omitted and assumed **B1**.
- (b) what the difference shows, not who is right **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Different perspectives influence different

A interpretations of a text

B page counts

C print runs

D genres

Solution 3.1

Method: Three effects

A interpretations of a text



B page counts

C print runs

D genres

Worked steps

A. interpretations of the text.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

The analytical question about competing accounts is

- A** who is right
- B** what the difference shows
- C** which is longer
- D** which came first

Solution 3.2

- A who is right
- B what the difference shows
- C which is longer
- D which came first



Worked steps

- B. what the difference shows.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A text supplies no way to decide between two accounts.

- (a) State what this indicates.
- (b) Explain what an analysis should do instead.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) that settling the question is not the point **B1**. (b) analyse what each account reveals about its speaker **B1** and what the text gains by leaving the matter open **B1**.