

Exercise walk-through

Significant events in a plot ■ 9.3

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what significant events often illustrate
- state what events do as they accumulate
- explain the CED's verb 'collide'
- distinguish accumulation from sequence

Method — What they illustrate

Significant events often illustrate competing value systems that relate to a conflict present in the text. An event is significant when it stages a conflict of values.

Method — Accumulation

Events in a plot collide and accumulate to create a sense of anticipation and suspense. Two verbs: they meet each other and they build up.

Method — 'Collide'

Collision is stronger than sequence. Events that collide interfere with one another — a decision made for one reason is undone by something set in motion earlier.

Method — Accumulation and sequence

A sequence is one thing after another; accumulation is one thing on top of another, so the weight increases. That increasing weight is where suspense comes from.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what significant events often illustrate.

Solution 2.1

Method: What they illustrate

Worked steps

competing value systems **B1** that relate to a conflict present in the text **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State the two things events do as a plot develops.

Solution 2.2

Method: Accumulation

Worked steps

they collide **B1** and accumulate **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Accumulation is not sequence.

- (a) State the difference.
- (b) State where suspense comes from.

Solution 2.3

Method: Accumulation and sequence

Worked steps

(a) a sequence is one thing after another **B1**; accumulation is one thing on top of another, so the weight increases **B1**. (b) from that increasing weight **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Significant events often illustrate competing

A value systems

B page counts

C genres

D narrators

Solution 3.1

Method: What they illustrate

A value systems



B page counts

C genres

D narrators

Worked steps

A. value systems.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Events that “collide”

A interfere with one another

B follow neatly

C are unrelated

D repeat

Solution 3.2

A interfere with one another



B follow neatly

C are unrelated

D repeat

Worked steps

A. they interfere.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A decision made in chapter three is undone by something set in motion in chapter one.

- (a) State the CED's verb for this.
- (b) Explain how it produces suspense.

Solution 3.3

Method: 'Collide'

Worked steps

(a) collide **B1**. (b) the reader who knows about the earlier action watches the later decision being made in ignorance of it **B1**, and the gap between what the reader knows and the character knows is suspense **B1**.