

# 1.5 Identifying the narrator or speaker

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: 12 marks

## Objective

Build the skills to identify the **narrator** 叙述者 or speaker.

**You must be able to:**

- state what narrators and speakers do
- distinguish perspective from point of view
- state the CED's warning about the author
- explain why the distinction matters for analysis

## 1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

### ■ What they do

**Narrators or speakers relate accounts to readers and establish a relationship between the text and the reader.** They do two things: tell, and position the reader.

### ■ Two terms

**Perspective** refers to how narrators, characters or speakers **see their circumstances**; **point of view** refers to **the position from which** a narrator or speaker relates the events. One is a way of seeing, the other a place to stand.

### ■ The warning

**A speaker or narrator is not necessarily the author.** The CED states it flatly because the error is common and it wrecks an analysis.

### ■ Why it matters

Attributing a narrator's view to the author converts a literary choice into a biographical claim, and the evidence in the text no longer supports what is being said.

## 2 Practice

2.1 State the two things narrators and speakers do.

[2]

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**2.2** Distinguish perspective from point of view. [2]

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**2.3** The CED warns about the author.

(a) State the warning. [1]

(b) Explain why the error damages an analysis. [2]

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### 3 Exam-style questions

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**3.1** Point of view refers to [1]

- **A** how a speaker sees circumstances
  - **B** the position from which events are related
  - **C** the author's opinions
  - **D** the setting
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**3.2** A narrator is [1]

- **A** always the author
  - **B** not necessarily the author
  - **C** never a character
  - **D** always reliable
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**3.3** A student writes that the author believes what the narrator says.

(a) State the error. [1]

(b) Explain what the student should write instead. [2]

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## 4 Go further

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- work through the **1.5 Identifying the narrator or speaker** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Short Fiction I** section of the AP English Literature handout on the **Know** page.

## Solutions

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**2.1** they relate accounts to readers and establish a relationship between the text and the reader.

**2.2** perspective is how a narrator, character or speaker sees their circumstances; point of view is the position from which events are related.

**2.3** (a) a speaker or narrator is not necessarily the author. (b) it converts a literary choice into a biographical claim, which the text's own evidence cannot support.

**3.1 B.** a position, not a way of seeing.

**3.2 B.** the CED's flat statement.

**3.3** (a) attributing the narrator's view to the author. (b) that the narrator holds the view, and then what the text does with it.