

2.1 What textual details reveal about a character

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

Objective

Build the skills to read a **speaker's perspective** 说话人的视角 in poetry.

You must be able to:

- name the five things through which characters reveal perspective
- explain why organisation of thinking is on the list
- apply the list to a poem's speaker
- distinguish this from unit 1's channels

1 Worked examples

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

■ Five revealers

Characters reveal their perspectives and biases through **the words they use, the details they provide in the text, the organization of their thinking, the decisions they make, and the actions they take.**

■ Organisation of thinking

The most useful item for poetry: how a speaker arranges an argument —what comes first, what is postponed, what is never reached —reveals a perspective that no single word does.

■ In a poem

A poem's speaker may take no action at all, so the first three items carry most of the analysis. Word choice, selected detail and arrangement are what a lyric gives you.

■ Against unit 1

1.1 named description, dialogue and behavior —the channels of a narrative. 2.1 names what a speaker does with language, which is what a poem has instead.

2 Practice

2.1 Name the five things through which perspective is revealed. [3]

2.2 Explain why organisation of thinking is useful in poetry. [2]

2.3 A poem's speaker takes no action.

(a) State which items carry the analysis. [2]

(b) State how 2.1 differs from 1.1. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 "The organization of their thinking" reveals perspective through [1]

- **A** how an argument is arranged
- **B** the poem's date
- **C** the rhyme scheme alone
- **D** the poet's biography

3.2 In a lyric poem the analysis rests mainly on [1]

- **A** actions taken
- **B** word choice, selected detail and arrangement
- **C** dialogue between characters
- **D** stage directions

3.3 A speaker mentions a death only in the last line.

(a) State which of the five items this belongs to. [1]

(b) Explain what the placement reveals.

[2]

4 Go further

- work through the **2.1 What textual details reveal about a character** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Poetry I** section of the AP English Literature handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 the words they use; the details they provide; the organization of their thinking; the decisions they make; the actions they take.

2.2 how a speaker arranges an argument reveals a perspective that no single word does.

2.3 (a) the words used, the details provided and the organization of thinking. (b) 1.1 names narrative channels; 2.1 names what a speaker does with language.

3.1 A. arrangement of an argument.

3.2 B. the three language-based items.

3.3 (a) the organization of the speaker's thinking. (b) the speaker has postponed the subject, which suggests reluctance or a wish to prepare the reader before naming it.