

2.7 Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

Objective

Build the skills to write a **poetry paragraph** 诗歌段落.

You must be able to:

- state what close reading enables
- explain what makes evidence from a poem different
- name the initial components of a paragraph
- avoid quoting without defending

1 Worked examples

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

■ Close reading

Writers read a text closely to identify details that, in combination, enable them to make and defend a claim about an aspect of the text. The same standard as 1.7, applied to a poem.

■ Evidence in poetry

A poem's evidence is small—a word, a break, a comparison—so "in combination" carries more weight here. Two or three details supporting one claim is the shape of a strong paragraph.

■ Two components

The claim and textual evidence that defends the claim. Claim first.

■ Quoting is not defending

A quotation placed after a claim proves nothing until the writer says what in the quotation supports it. The words carrying the weight must be identified.

2 Practice

2.1 State what close reading enables a writer to do. [2]

2.2 Explain why "in combination" matters especially in poetry. [2]

2.3 Quoting is not defending.

(a) State what a writer must add after a quotation. [2]

(b) State the components of the paragraph's opening. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A poem's evidence is typically [1]

- **A** small —a word, a break, a comparison
- **B** a whole chapter
- **C** the poet's biography
- **D** the publication date

3.2 A quotation supports a claim only when the writer [1]

- **A** identifies what in it carries the weight
- **B** makes it longer
- **C** puts it first
- **D** omits the claim

3.3 Write a claim about a poem you know and name two details that would defend it.[4]

4 Go further

- work through the **2.7 Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Poetry I** section of the AP English Literature handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 identify details that, in combination, enable a claim that can be made and defended about an aspect of the text.

2.2 a poem's evidence is small, so a claim usually rests on two or three details working together.

2.3 (a) a statement of what in the quotation supports the claim, identifying the words carrying the weight. (b) the claim and the textual evidence that defends it.

3.1 A. small units of text.

3.2 A. identifying the operative words.

3.3 a claim requiring defense; a first detail identified precisely; a second detail identified precisely; the two related to the claim rather than listed.