

3.4 Significant events in a plot

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

Objective

Build the skills to judge an event's **significance** 重要性.

You must be able to:

- state what a narrative is delivered through
- name the three kinds of event the CED gives
- state what an event's significance depends on
- explain why significance is relational

1 Worked examples

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

■ Delivery

A story, or narrative, is delivered through a series of events that relate to a conflict. Events without a relation to the conflict are not the plot's business.

■ Three kinds

Episodes, encounters and scenes —events in a narrative that can introduce and develop a plot.

■ Significance

The significance of an event depends on its relationship to the narrative, the conflict, and the development of characters. Three relationships, and an event may be significant through any of them.

■ Relational

Significance is not a property of an event by itself. A quiet conversation can be the most significant scene in a novel if it changes what a character will do.

2 Practice

2.1 State what a narrative is delivered through.

[2]

2.2 Name the three kinds of event and what they can do. [2]

2.3 Significance is relational.

(a) State the three relationships it depends on. [3]

(b) State why a quiet scene may be the most significant. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The events of a narrative relate to [1]

- **A** a conflict
 - **B** the author's life
 - **C** the page count
 - **D** the publisher
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3.2 Significance is [1]

- **A** a property of an event alone
 - **B** relational
 - **C** decided by length
 - **D** decided by violence
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3.3 A novel's loudest scene changes nothing.

(a) State its significance. [1]

(b) Explain the reasoning. [2]

4 Go further

- work through the **3.4 Significant events in a plot** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Longer Fiction or Drama I** section of the AP English Literature handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 a series of events that relate to a conflict.

2.2 episodes, encounters and scenes; they can introduce and develop a plot.

2.3 (a) its relationship to the narrative; to the conflict; to the development of characters.

(b) it may change what a character will do.

3.1 A. a conflict.

3.2 B. relational.

3.3 (a) low, on the CED's criteria. (b) significance depends on the event's relationship to the narrative, the conflict and character development, and a scene changing none of them scores on none of the three.