

4.3 Nuances in characters' relationships

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to explain **conflict between characters** 人物间的冲突.

You must be able to:

- state where conflict among characters often arises from
- distinguish a value conflict from a disagreement
- explain why this makes the conflict hard to resolve
- find the value beneath a quarrel

1 Worked examples

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

■ The source

Conflict among characters often arises from tensions generated by their different value systems. Not from a misunderstanding, and not from malice.

■ Value and disagreement

A disagreement is about a fact and can be settled by evidence. A value conflict is about what matters, and evidence does not settle it.

■ Why hard

Both parties can be entirely reasonable and still be opposed. That is what makes a value conflict dramatic rather than merely awkward.

■ Finding the value

Ask what each character would have to give up to agree. The answer names the value, and the answer is the analysis.

2 Practice

2.1 State where conflict among characters often arises from.

[2]

2.2 Distinguish a value conflict from a disagreement. [2]

2.3 A value conflict is hard to resolve.

(a) Explain why. [2]

(b) State the question that finds the value. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Conflict among characters often arises from tensions generated by their different [1]

- **A** value systems
 - **B** ages
 - **C** accents
 - **D** occupations
-

3.2 A disagreement about a fact can be settled by [1]

- **A** evidence
 - **B** nothing
 - **C** violence only
 - **D** the narrator
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3.3 Two characters quarrel and both are reasonable.

(a) State what this indicates. [1]

(b) Explain how to identify the values involved. [2]

4 Go further

- work through the **4.3 Nuances in characters' relationships** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Short Fiction II** section of the AP English Literature handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 tensions generated by their different value systems.

2.2 a disagreement is about a fact and is settled by evidence; a value conflict is about what matters and evidence does not settle it.

2.3 (a) both parties can be reasonable and still opposed, so no fact will resolve it. (b) ask what each would have to give up to agree.

3.1 A. value systems.

3.2 A. evidence.

3.3 (a) a conflict of values rather than of facts. (b) ask what each would have to surrender to agree with the other; what each refuses to give up names the value.