

4.8 Identifying the narrator or speaker

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to explain a **narrator who is a character** 兼作人物的叙述者.

You must be able to:

- state the CED's claim about narrators as characters
- name the two things such a narrator may do with events
- explain what direct address to readers does
- distinguish recalling from describing as they occur

1 Worked examples

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

■ The claim

Narrators may function as characters in the narrative who directly address readers and either recall events or describe them as they occur.

■ Two modes

Recall puts the narrator after the events, knowing how they turned out. **Describing as they occur** puts them inside, not knowing. The choice governs what the narrator can say.

■ Direct address

Addressing the reader creates the relationship 1.5 described. A narrator who says "you will think me foolish" is managing the reader's judgment in advance.

■ Why the distinction matters

A recalling narrator may withhold what they later learned, and the withholding is a choice the analysis can name. A narrator describing events as they occur cannot withhold what they do not yet know.

2 Practice

2.1 State the CED's claim about narrators as characters.

[2]

2.2 Distinguish recalling from describing as events occur. [2]

2.3 The choice governs what a narrator can say.

(a) Explain the difference in what each can withhold. [2]

(b) State what direct address does. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A narrator who recalls events [1]

- **A** knows how they turned out
 - **B** cannot know the outcome
 - **C** is never a character
 - **D** is the author
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3.2 Direct address to readers [1]

- **A** establishes a relationship with the reader
 - **B** changes the setting
 - **C** ends the plot
 - **D** removes the narrator
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3.3 A narrator says "I did not yet know what this would cost me."

(a) State which mode this is. [1]

(b) Explain what the sentence does to the reader. [2]

4 Go further

- work through the **4.8 Identifying the narrator or speaker** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Short Fiction II** section of the AP English Literature handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 narrators may function as characters who directly address readers and either recall events or describe them as they occur.

2.2 recall places the narrator after the events knowing the outcome; describing as they occur places them inside, without that knowledge.

2.3 (a) a recalling narrator may withhold what they later learned; one describing events as they occur cannot withhold what they do not yet know. (b) it establishes a relationship between the text and the reader.

3.1 A. recall implies hindsight.

3.2 A. it establishes the relationship.

3.3 (a) recall. (b) it announces that a cost is coming, so the reader now reads the following events looking for it.