

6.1 What textual details reveal about a character

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

Objective

Build the skills to compare **competing perspectives** 不同视角.

You must be able to:

- state the three things different perspectives do
- explain why competing perspectives are not a fault
- use disagreement between characters as evidence
- resist deciding which character is right

1 Worked examples

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

■ Three effects

Different character, narrator, or speaker perspectives often reveal different information, develop different attitudes, and influence different interpretations of a text and the ideas in it.

■ Not a fault

A long text that lets two characters see the same event differently has not failed to decide; it has supplied a comparison. The disagreement is the material.

■ As evidence

When two characters describe one event, the differences between the accounts are evidence about both of them —what each noticed, what each omitted, what each assumed.

■ Not adjudicating

The analytical question is not who is right but what the difference shows. A text that supplies no way to settle the question is telling you the question is not the point.

2 Practice

2.1 State the three things different perspectives do. [3]

2.2 Explain why competing perspectives are not a fault. [2]

2.3 Two characters describe one event differently.

(a) State what the differences are evidence about. [2]

(b) State the analytical question. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Different perspectives influence different [1]

- **A** interpretations of a text
- **B** page counts
- **C** print runs
- **D** genres

3.2 The analytical question about competing accounts is [1]

- **A** who is right
- **B** what the difference shows
- **C** which is longer
- **D** which came first

3.3 A text supplies no way to decide between two accounts.

(a) State what this indicates. [1]

(b) Explain what an analysis should do instead.

[2]

4 Go further

- work through the **6.1 What textual details reveal about a character** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Longer Fiction or Drama II** section of the AP English Literature handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 reveal different information; develop different attitudes; influence different interpretations.

2.2 the disagreement supplies a comparison rather than a failure to decide.

2.3 (a) about both characters —what each noticed, omitted and assumed. (b) what the difference shows, not who is right.

3.1 A. interpretations of the text.

3.2 B. what the difference shows.

3.3 (a) that settling the question is not the point. (b) analyse what each account reveals about its speaker and what the text gains by leaving the matter open.