

6.3 Choices, actions, and speech reveal complexity

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to explain **complexity** 复杂性 in character.

You must be able to:

- state what inconsistencies between thought and behavior reveal
- distinguish private from professed values
- state what competing or inconsistent choices contribute
- explain why complexity is not inconsistency of writing

1 Worked examples

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

■ Thought and behavior

Inconsistencies between the private thoughts of characters and their actual behavior reveal tensions and complexities between private and professed values.

■ Two kinds of value

Private values are what a character actually holds; **professed** values are what they claim. The gap between them is the material.

■ Competing choices

A character's competing, conflicting, or inconsistent choices or actions contribute to complexity in a text. Complexity is produced by the text, not found in spite of it.

■ Not a fault

A character who thinks one thing and does another has not been written badly. The inconsistency is evidence, and treating it as an error discards what the text is showing.

2 Practice

2.1 State what inconsistencies between thought and behavior reveal. [2]

2.2 Distinguish private from professed values. [2]

2.3 Complexity is produced, not accidental.

(a) State what competing choices contribute. [1]

(b) Explain the error of treating inconsistency as a fault. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Inconsistencies between private thought and behavior reveal tensions between private and [1]

- **A** professed values
 - **B** public events
 - **C** narrative structures
 - **D** settings
-

3.2 A character's inconsistent choices contribute to [1]

- **A** complexity in a text
 - **B** length
 - **C** rhyme
 - **D** genre
-

3.3 A character preaches thrift and secretly gambles.

(a) Name the two kinds of value in play. [1]

(b) Explain what the gap gives a reader.

[2]

4 Go further

- work through the **6.3 Choices, actions, and speech reveal complexity** 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 tensions and complexities between private and professed values.

2.2 private values are what a character actually holds; professed values are what they claim.

2.3 (a) complexity in a text. (b) the inconsistency is evidence about the character, so treating it as an error discards what the text is showing.

3.1 A. professed values.

3.2 A. complexity.

3.3 (a) professed thrift and a private value placed on risk or escape. (b) evidence that the character's public account of themselves is not the whole one, which is what makes them worth analysing.