

7.3 The function of setting in a narrative

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to explain **changing and contrasted settings** 场景对比.

You must be able to:

- state what a change of setting may suggest
- state why settings may be contrasted
- explain how a setting change can signal a character change
- identify the values attached to two settings

1 Worked examples

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

■ A change of setting

When a setting changes, it may suggest other movements, changes, or shifts in the narrative. A move between places is rarely only a move.

■ Contrasted settings

Settings may be contrasted in order to establish a conflict of values or ideas associated with those settings. The contrast is the same analytic move as 4.7, applied to places.

■ Signalling

If a character's circumstances change when the setting does, the setting change is doing narrative work: it marks a transition the text does not have to state.

■ Attached values

Ask what each setting permits and forbids. A city that permits anonymity and a village that forbids it are not two backdrops but two value systems.

2 Practice

2.1 State what a change of setting may suggest. [2]

2.2 State why settings may be contrasted. [2]

2.3 Settings carry values.

(a) State the question that finds them. [2]

(b) State what a setting change can mark. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Settings may be contrasted to establish a conflict of [1]

- **A** values or ideas
- **B** page counts
- **C** genres
- **D** publication dates

3.2 A setting change may signal [1]

- **A** other movements, changes or shifts in the narrative
- **B** a printing error
- **C** the end of the book
- **D** a new author

3.3 A story moves a character from a crowded city to an empty coast.

(a) State what the move may mark. [1]

(b) Explain the values the two settings might carry.

[2]

4 Go further

- work through the **7.3 The function of setting in a narrative** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Short Fiction III** section of the AP English Literature handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 other movements, changes or shifts in the narrative.

2.2 to establish a conflict of values or ideas associated with those settings.

2.3 (a) what each setting permits and what it forbids. (b) a transition the text does not have to state.

3.1 A. values or ideas.

3.2 A. other shifts in the narrative.

3.3 (a) a change in the character's circumstances or state of mind. (b) the city permits anonymity and demands endurance; the coast permits solitude and offers no distraction from it.