

8.2 The function of contrasts within a text

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to explain **irony and paradox** 反讽与悖论.

You must be able to:

- state what juxtaposition may create
- define situational and verbal irony
- define paradox in the CED's terms
- distinguish paradox from contradiction

1 Worked examples

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

■ Antithesis

Juxtaposition may create or demonstrate an antithesis —a direct opposition set up by placing two things side by side.

■ Irony

Situational or verbal irony is created when events or statements in a text are inconsistent with either the expectations readers bring to a text or the expectations established by the text itself. Two possible sources of the expectation.

■ Paradox

Paradox occurs when seemingly contradictory elements are juxtaposed, but the contradiction —which may or may not be reconciled —can reveal a hidden or unexpected idea.

■ Paradox and contradiction

The CED writes **seemingly** contradictory, and adds that the contradiction may or may not be reconciled. A paradox is worth analysing because something is revealed by holding the two together, whether or not they resolve.

2 Practice

2.1 Define situational or verbal irony in the CED's terms. [2]

2.2 Define paradox and state what it can reveal. [2]

2.3 Expectations come from two sources.

(a) Name them. [2]

(b) State what "seemingly" contributes to the definition of paradox. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Juxtaposition may create or demonstrate [1]

- **A** an antithesis
- **B** a rhyme
- **C** a stanza
- **D** a narrator

3.2 The CED says a paradox's contradiction [1]

- **A** may or may not be reconciled
- **B** must be reconciled
- **C** can never be reconciled
- **D** is always an error

3.3 A poem calls silence "the loudest answer".

(a) Name the device. [1]

(b) Explain what holding the two terms together reveals.

[2]

4 Go further

- work through the **8.2 The function of contrasts within a text** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Poetry III** section of the AP English Literature handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 events or statements inconsistent with expectations that readers bring to the text or that the text itself establishes.

2.2 seemingly contradictory elements juxtaposed, which can reveal a hidden or unexpected idea.

2.3 (a) expectations readers bring to a text; expectations established by the text itself.
(b) it marks the contradiction as apparent, so the two terms may both hold.

3.1 A. an antithesis.

3.2 A. may or may not.

3.3 (a) paradox. (b) silence and loudness cannot both be literal, and holding them together reveals that a refusal to speak can communicate more forcefully than speech.