

9.5 Details, diction, and syntax reveal perspective

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to explain a **changing narrator** 变化的叙述者.

You must be able to:

- state what multiple perspectives contribute
- state the CED's claim about a narrator changing
- state what changes in perspective may contribute to
- explain how a changing narrator produces irony

1 Worked examples

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

■ Multiple perspectives

Multiple, and even contrasting, perspectives can occur within a single text and contribute to the complexity of the text.

■ A changing narrator

A narrator or speaker may change over the course of a text as a result of actions and interactions. The teller is not exempt from the story.

■ What changes contribute

Changes and inconsistencies in a narrator's or speaker's perspective may contribute to irony or the complexity of the text.

■ Producing irony

When a narrator's later perspective exposes the limitations of their earlier one, the earlier passages acquire a second meaning the narrator did not intend—which is 8.2's inconsistency between statement and established expectation.

2 Practice

2.1 State what multiple perspectives contribute. [2]

2.2 State the CED's claim about a narrator changing. [2]

2.3 A changing narrator can produce irony.

(a) Explain how. [2]

(b) State what changes and inconsistencies may contribute to. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A narrator may change as a result of [1]

- **A** actions and interactions
- **B** the page count
- **C** the publisher
- **D** nothing

3.2 Changes in a narrator's perspective may contribute to irony or [1]

- **A** the complexity of the text
- **B** the length
- **C** the genre
- **D** the title

3.3 A narrator's final chapter shows the earlier chapters were self-serving.

(a) State what the earlier chapters now carry. [1]

(b) Explain the effect on a rereading.

[2]

4 Go further

- work through the **9.5 Details, diction, and syntax reveal perspective** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Longer Fiction or Drama III** section of the AP English Literature handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 multiple and even contrasting perspectives can occur within a single text and contribute to its complexity.

2.2 a narrator or speaker may change over the course of a text as a result of actions and interactions.

2.3 (a) a later perspective can expose the limitations of an earlier one, so earlier passages acquire a meaning the narrator did not intend. (b) irony or the complexity of the text.

3.1 A. actions and interactions.

3.2 A. complexity.

3.3 (a) a second, unintended meaning. (b) every earlier claim is read against what the reader now knows about the narrator, so the same sentences yield a different account of events.