

1.1 What textual details reveal about a character

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

KEY WORDS character 人物 • perspective 视角 • plot 情节

Objective

Build the skills to read **character** 人物 from textual detail.

You must be able to:

- name the three things that reveal characters
- name the four possible sources of a description
- define perspective and what informs it
- explain the two-way relationship between perspective and relationships

1 Worked examples

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

■ Three revealers

Description, dialogue and behavior reveal characters to readers. Three channels, and a strong answer uses more than one.

■ Four sources

Descriptions may come from **a speaker, a narrator, other characters, or the characters themselves**. Who is describing matters: a rival's description is evidence about the rival too.

■ Perspective

Perspective is how narrators, characters or speakers understand their circumstances, informed by **background, personality traits, biases and relationships**.

■ Two-way

A character's perspective is **both shaped and revealed** by relationships, the environment, plot events and the ideas expressed in the text. The same relationship that forms a view is the evidence for it.

2 Practice

2.1 Name the three things that reveal characters. [3]

2.2 Define perspective and name what informs it. [2]

2.3 A character is described by a rival.

(a) State what this reveals besides the character described. [1]

(b) Explain why the source of a description matters. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Perspective is informed by background, personality traits, relationships and [1]

A	B
C	D

A biases

B page count

C publication date

D genre

3.2 A character's perspective is described as [1]

A	B
C	D

A only shaped by relationships

B both shaped and revealed by them

C only revealed by them

D independent of them

3.3 A story shows a character speaking kindly and acting cruelly.

(a) State which two channels are in play. [1]

(b) Explain what the contradiction gives a reader. [2]
