

1.5 Identifying the narrator or speaker

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 12 marks**

KEY WORDS narrator 叙述者 • point of view 叙述视点 • perspective 视角 • character 人物
• setting 背景

Objective

Build the skills to identify the **narrator** 叙述者 or speaker.

You must be able to:

- state what narrators and speakers do
- distinguish perspective from point of view
- state the CED's warning about the author
- explain why the distinction matters for analysis

1 Worked examples

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

■ What they do

Narrators or speakers relate accounts to readers and establish a relationship between the text and the reader. They do two things: tell, and position the reader.

■ Two terms

Perspective refers to how narrators, characters or speakers **see their circumstances**; **point of view** refers to **the position from which** a narrator or speaker relates the events. One is a way of seeing, the other a place to stand.

■ The warning

A speaker or narrator is not necessarily the author. The CED states it flatly because the error is common and it wrecks an analysis.

■ Why it matters

Attributing a narrator's view to the author converts a literary choice into a biographical claim, and the evidence in the text no longer supports what is being said.

2 Practice

2.1 State the two things narrators and speakers do. [2]

2.2 Distinguish perspective from point of view. [2]

2.3 The CED warns about the author.

(a) State the warning. [1]

(b) Explain why the error damages an analysis. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Point of view refers to [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** how a speaker sees circumstances
B the position from which events are related
C the author's opinions
D the setting

3.2 A narrator is [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** always the author
B not necessarily the author
C never a character
D always reliable

3.3 A student writes that the author believes what the narrator says.

(a) State the error. [1]

(b) Explain what the student should write instead. [2]
