

2.2 The function of structure in a text

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 18 marks**

KEY WORDS line and stanza breaks 行与诗节的断开 • poetic structure 结构 • contrast 对照

Objective

Build the skills to explain **poetic structure** 结构.

You must be able to:

- state what line and stanza breaks contribute
- state what the arrangement of lines and stanzas contributes
- explain how structure affects reactions and expectations
- write about a break as a choice

1 Worked examples

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

■ Breaks

Line and stanza breaks contribute to the development and relationship of ideas in a poem. A break is a place where an idea is interrupted or joined.

■ Arrangement

The arrangement of lines and stanzas contributes to the development and relationship of ideas. Not only where the breaks fall but the shape they make.

■ Reactions and expectations

A text's structure affects readers' reactions and expectations by presenting the relationships among the ideas of the text via their relative positions and their placement within the text as a whole.

■ A break as a choice

Ask what the line would mean without the break, and what the break adds. A break that separates a subject from its verb makes the reader wait, and the waiting is the effect.

2 Practice

2.1 State what line and stanza breaks contribute. [2]

2.2 State how structure affects readers. [2]

2.3 A break is a choice.

(a) State the question to ask about it. [2]

(b) Give one effect a break can produce. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Structure presents relationships among ideas via their relative positions and their [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A placement within the text as a whole
B alphabetical order
C length
D rhyme only

3.2 A break between a subject and its verb makes the reader [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A wait
B stop reading
C skip ahead
D reread the title

3.3 A stanza ends mid-sentence.

- State what the reader experiences. [1]
- Explain what an analysis should say about it. [2]

3.4 Full free-response task. A sonnet’s first eight lines describe a garden in a single unbroken sentence. Line 9 begins “*But*” and the remaining six lines are four short sentences. The rhyme scheme is regular throughout until the final couplet, where the rhyme is a half-rhyme.

Write an essay that analyses how the poem's structure contributes to its meaning.

Marked on the AP 6-point rubric: **Row A** — Thesis (1), **Row B** — Evidence and Commentary (4), **Row C** — Sophistication (1).

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