

4.8 Identifying the narrator or speaker

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

Objective

Build the skills to explain a **narrator who is a character** 兼作人物的叙述者.

You must be able to:

- state the CED’s claim about narrators as characters
- name the two things such a narrator may do with events
- explain what direct address to readers does
- distinguish recalling from describing as they occur

1 Worked examples

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

■ The claim

Narrators may function as characters in the narrative who directly address readers and either recall events or describe them as they occur.

■ Two modes

Recall puts the narrator after the events, knowing how they turned out. **Describing as they occur** puts them inside, not knowing. The choice governs what the narrator can say.

■ Direct address

Addressing the reader creates the relationship 1.5 described. A narrator who says “you will think me foolish” is managing the reader’s judgment in advance.

■ Why the distinction matters

A recalling narrator may withhold what they later learned, and the withholding is a choice the analysis can name. A narrator describing events as they occur cannot withhold what they do not yet know.

2 Practice

2.1 State the CED’s claim about narrators as characters. [2]

2.2 Distinguish recalling from describing as events occur. [2]

2.3 The choice governs what a narrator can say.

(a) Explain the difference in what each can withhold. [2]

(b) State what direct address does. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A narrator who recalls events [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A knows how they turned out
B cannot know the outcome
C is never a character
D is the author

3.2 Direct address to readers [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A establishes a relationship with the reader
B changes the setting
C ends the plot
D removes the narrator

3.3 A narrator says “I did not yet know what this would cost me.”

(a) State which mode this is. [1]

(b) Explain what the sentence does to the reader. [2]
