

5.8 Developing a literary thesis statement

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS poem 诗歌论点

Objective

Build the skills to write a thesis about a **poem** 诗歌论点.

You must be able to:

- state what a thesis expresses and requires
- explain what a poetry thesis must avoid
- state what the CED does not require
- test a poetry thesis

1 Worked examples

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

■ The requirement

A thesis expresses an interpretation of a literary text and requires a defense through textual evidence and a line of reasoning, explained through commentary.

■ What to avoid

A poetry thesis that names devices — “the poet uses imagery, metaphor and structure” — is a list, not an interpretation. It could be written about almost any poem, which is the test that it says nothing.

■ What is not required

A thesis need not list the points of an interpretation, the literary elements to be analysed, or specific evidence.

■ The test

Could this thesis be written about a different poem? If yes, it is not yet about this one. A good poetry thesis names what this poem does that another does not.

2 Practice

2.1 State what a thesis expresses and requires. [2]

2.2 Explain what a poetry thesis must avoid. [2]

2.3 A thesis can be tested.

(a) State the test question. [1]

(b) State what a good poetry thesis names. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A thesis that could be written about almost any poem [1]

A	B
C	D

A says nothing specific

B is ideal

C is an interpretation

D is a line of reasoning

3.2 The CED says a thesis need not list [1]

A	B
C	D

A the literary elements to be analysed

B the title

C the poet

D the date

3.3 A student writes: “The poet uses imagery and metaphor to convey emotion.”

(a) State why this fails. [1]

(b) Rewrite it as a thesis. [2]
