

6.3 Choices, actions, and speech reveal complexity

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

KEY WORDS complexity 复杂性

Objective

Build the skills to explain **complexity** 复杂性 in character.

You must be able to:

- state what inconsistencies between thought and behavior reveal
- distinguish private from professed values
- state what competing or inconsistent choices contribute
- explain why complexity is not inconsistency of writing

1 Worked examples

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

■ Thought and behavior

Inconsistencies between the private thoughts of characters and their actual behavior reveal tensions and complexities between private and professed values.

■ Two kinds of value

Private values are what a character actually holds; **professed** values are what they claim. The gap between them is the material.

■ Competing choices

A character's competing, conflicting, or inconsistent choices or actions contribute to complexity in a text. Complexity is produced by the text, not found in spite of it.

■ Not a fault

A character who thinks one thing and does another has not been written badly. The inconsistency is evidence, and treating it as an error discards what the text is showing.

2 Practice

2.1 State what inconsistencies between thought and behavior reveal. [2]

2.2 Distinguish private from professed values. [2]

2.3 Complexity is produced, not accidental.

(a) State what competing choices contribute. [1]

(b) Explain the error of treating inconsistency as a fault. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Inconsistencies between private thought and behavior reveal tensions between private and [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A professed values
B public events
C narrative structures
D settings

3.2 A character's inconsistent choices contribute to [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A complexity in a text
B length
C rhyme
D genre

3.3 A character preaches thrift and secretly gambles.

(a) Name the two kinds of value in play.

[1]

(b) Explain what the gap gives a reader.

[2]
