

6.4 How plot orders events

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

KEY WORDS in medias res 从中间开始 • flashback 倒叙 • foreshadowing 伏笔
• interrupted chronology 打断的时间顺序

Objective

Build the skills to identify **interrupted chronology** 打断的时间顺序.

You must be able to:

- name the four structures that interrupt chronology
- define flashback and in medias res
- distinguish foreshadowing from the others
- explain what an interruption implies about the telling

1 Worked examples

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

■ Four structures

Flashback, foreshadowing, in medias res, and stream of consciousness.

■ Two definitions

A **flashback** moves back to an earlier moment; **in medias res** begins the narrative in the middle of the action rather than at the start.

■ Foreshadowing

The odd one out: it does not move the narrative in time but plants something whose significance appears later. It interrupts the reader's chronology of understanding rather than the plot's order.

■ What it implies

A story told out of order has a teller who chose the order. Interrupted chronology therefore always raises the question of who is arranging this and why.

2 Practice

2.1 Name the four structures that interrupt chronology. [2]

2.2 Define flashback and in medias res. [2]

2.3 Foreshadowing is the odd one out.

(a) Explain why. [2]

(b) State what an interruption implies about the telling. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Beginning a narrative in the middle of the action is [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** in medias res
B flashback
C foreshadowing
D stream of consciousness

3.2 Interrupted chronology raises the question of [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** who is arranging the telling and why
B the page count
C the publisher
D the genre

3.3 A novel opens with a funeral and returns to it two hundred pages later.

(a) Name the structure. [1]

(b) Explain the effect of the arrangement. [2]
