

7.8 The function of a symbol

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

KEY WORDS symbolic setting 象征性场景

Objective

Build the skills to explain a **symbolic setting** 象征性场景.

You must be able to:

- state when a setting becomes symbolic
- name the kinds of abstraction a setting may be associated with
- state the CED's claim about universal associations
- distinguish a place from what it has come to mean

1 Worked examples

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

■ Becoming symbolic

A setting may become symbolic when it is, or comes to be, associated with abstractions such as emotions, ideologies, and beliefs. “Comes to be” allows a place to acquire the association within the text.

■ Abstractions

Emotions, ideologies and beliefs — not objects. A symbolic setting stands for something that cannot be pointed at.

■ Universal associations

Over time, some settings have developed certain associations such that they almost universally symbolise particular concepts. “Almost” — the CED does not claim a fixed code.

■ Place and meaning

A setting keeps working as a place while it symbolises. An analysis that treats the house only as an idea has lost the literal level that makes the symbol persuasive.

2 Practice

2.1 State when a setting becomes symbolic. [2]

2.2 Name the kinds of abstraction a setting may be associated with. [3]

2.3 A symbolic setting is still a place.

(a) Explain why this matters. [2]

(b) State the force of “almost universally”. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 “Comes to be associated” allows a place to acquire its meaning [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** within the text
B before writing
C never
D only in poetry

3.2 Settings symbolise abstractions such as emotions, ideologies and [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** beliefs
B furniture
C dates
D names

3.3 A student writes only about what a house “represents”.

(a) State what has been lost. [1]

(b) Explain why the literal level matters. [2]
