

8.4 The function of a symbol

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

KEY WORDS attitude from symbols 象征中的态度

Objective

Build the skills to read **attitude from symbols** 象征中的态度.

You must be able to:

- state the CED’s claim about symbols and attitude
- explain how the use of a symbol reveals perspective
- distinguish the symbol’s meaning from the speaker’s use of it
- analyse a symbol as evidence about a speaker

1 Worked examples

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

■ **The claim**

Symbols in a text and the way they are used may imply that a narrator, character, or speaker has a particular attitude or perspective.

■ **Use reveals perspective**

“**And the way they are used**” is the operative phrase. The same symbol handled with reverence or with contempt tells you about the handler.

■ **Meaning and use**

A symbol’s meaning is what it stands for; its use is what the speaker does with it. Two speakers can share a symbol and reveal opposite perspectives through how they invoke it.

■ **As evidence**

Ask: what does this speaker assume the reader will feel about this symbol, and what does that assumption reveal about them?

2 Practice

2.1 State the CED’s claim about symbols and attitude. [2]

2.2 Distinguish a symbol’s meaning from its use. [2]

2.3 A symbol is evidence about a speaker.

(a) State the question to ask. [2]

(b) State the operative phrase in the CED’s sentence. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Symbols may imply that a speaker has a particular [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** attitude or perspective
B age
C occupation
D accent

3.2 Two speakers using the same symbol may reveal [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** opposite perspectives
B identical views
C nothing
D the author’s opinion

3.3 One speaker calls a flag “a rag”; another calls it “the colours”.

(a) State what differs. [1]

(b) Explain what each reveals. [2]
