

8.5 The function of a metaphor

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS conceit 奇喻 • paradox 悖论

Objective

Build the skills to explain a **conceit** 奇喻.

You must be able to:

- define a conceit in the CED's terms
- state what conceits often compare
- state what multiple comparisons may do
- distinguish a conceit from an ordinary extended metaphor

1 Worked examples

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

■ Definition

A **conceit** is a form of extended metaphor that often appears in poetry. Conceits develop complex comparisons that present images, concepts, and associations in surprising or paradoxical ways.

■ What they compare

Often, conceits are used to make complex comparisons between the natural world and an individual.

■ Multiple comparisons

Multiple comparisons, representations, or associations may combine to affect one another in complex ways. In a conceit the comparisons interact rather than merely accumulate.

■ Against extended metaphor

5.5's extended metaphor persists and expands. A conceit adds **surprise or paradox**: the comparison is unlikely enough that the reader notices the act of comparing.

2 Practice

2.1 Define a conceit in the CED's terms. [2]

2.2 State what conceits often compare. [2]

2.3 A conceit differs from an ordinary extended metaphor.

(a) State the difference. [2]

(b) State what multiple comparisons may do. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Conceits present images and associations in [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** surprising or paradoxical ways
 - B** predictable ways
 - C** alphabetical order
 - D** silence

3.2 Conceits often compare an individual to [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** the natural world
 - B** another poem
 - C** the reader
 - D** the poet

3.3 A poem compares two lovers to the legs of a compass for thirty lines.

(a) Name the device. [1]

(b) Explain what makes it more than an extended metaphor. [2]
