

9.3 Significant events in a plot

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

KEY WORDS accumulating events 事件的累积

Objective

Build the skills to explain **accumulating events** 事件的累积.

You must be able to:

- state what significant events often illustrate
- state what events do as they accumulate
- explain the CED’s verb ‘collide’
- distinguish accumulation from sequence

1 Worked examples

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

■ What they illustrate

Significant events often illustrate competing value systems that relate to a conflict present in the text. An event is significant when it stages a conflict of values.

■ Accumulation

Events in a plot collide and accumulate to create a sense of anticipation and suspense. Two verbs: they meet each other and they build up.

■ ‘Collide’

Collision is stronger than sequence. Events that collide interfere with one another — a decision made for one reason is undone by something set in motion earlier.

■ Accumulation and sequence

A sequence is one thing after another; accumulation is one thing on top of another, so the weight increases. That increasing weight is where suspense comes from.

2 Practice

2.1 State what significant events often illustrate. [2]

2.2 State the two things events do as a plot develops. [2]

2.3 Accumulation is not sequence.

(a) State the difference. [2]

(b) State where suspense comes from. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Significant events often illustrate competing [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** value systems
B page counts
C genres
D narrators

3.2 Events that “collide” [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** interfere with one another
B follow neatly
C are unrelated
D repeat

3.3 A decision made in chapter three is undone by something set in motion in chapter one.

(a) State the CED's verb for this. [1]

(b) Explain how it produces suspense. [2]
