

## 9.4 The function of conflict in a text

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: 12 marks

**KEY WORDS** resolution and catharsis 净化

### Objective

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Build the skills to explain **resolution and catharsis** 净化.

**You must be able to:**

- define catharsis in the CED's terms
- state what unseen elements may do
- state the CED's claim about unresolved endings
- explain why a lack of resolution can be meaningful

### 1 Worked examples

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

#### ■ Catharsis

The resolution of the anticipation, suspense, or central conflicts of a plot may be referred to as the moment of catharsis or emotional release.

#### ■ Unseen elements

Sometimes things not actually shown in a narrative, such as an unseen character or a preceding action, may be in conflict with or result in conflict for a character. What the text does not show can still act.

#### ■ Unresolved endings

Although most plots end in resolution of the central conflicts, some have unresolved endings, and the lack of resolution may contribute to interpretations of the text.

#### ■ Meaningful absence

An unresolved ending withholds the release the reader has been prepared for. That withholding is a choice, and it usually says something about whether the conflict was the kind that admits resolution.

## 2 Practice

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**2.1** Define catharsis in the CED's terms. [2]

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**2.2** State what unseen elements may do. [2]

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**2.3** Some endings are unresolved.

(a) State the CED's claim. [2]

(b) Explain why the absence can be meaningful. [1]

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## 3 Exam-style questions

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**3.1** Catharsis is the resolution of anticipation, suspense or [1]

|   |   |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |

**A** central conflicts

**B** page numbers

**C** allusions

**D** rhyme

**3.2** The CED says lack of resolution [1]

|   |   |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |

**A** may contribute to interpretations of the text

**B** is always a flaw

**C** never occurs

**D** ends the analysis

**3.3** A novel ends without settling its central conflict.

(a) State what the reader is denied. [1]

(b) Explain what the denial may say about the conflict. [2]

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