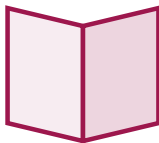


Longer Fiction or Drama III

AP English Literature ■ Unit 9

AP English Literature



What we will cover

- 1 Characters Who Change or Remain Unchanged
- 2 Choices, Actions, and Speech Reveal Complexity
- 3 Significant Events in a Plot
- 4 The Function of Conflict in a Text
- 5 Details, Diction, and Syntax Reveal Perspective
- 6 Developing a Literary Thesis Statement

1

Characters Who Change or Remain Unchanged

Characters Who Change or Remain Unchanged

Original complete practice narrative — Monday (1 of 2)

After her brother's accident, Leah left the factory and waited for the inquiry's decision. "I will go back when they tell us what happened," she said. Each morning the postman put letters on the sill. Each morning she lifted the white envelopes, then put them down. On Friday, her aunt counted the coins in the kitchen jar. "Monday's rent," she said. Leah counted them again.

An authored short teaching narrative, not an AP extract or substitute for a studied full-length work.

Characters Who Change or Remain Unchanged, continued

Monday (2 of 2) — the ending

The postman came with a catalogue and a bill. That evening, Leah took her factory coat from the hook. “Then you have your answer?” her aunt asked. “I have Monday,” Leah said. At dawn she passed the empty sill and walked to the factory. The jar remained on the table.

Attempt before the explanation

What has changed in Leah's action? What question remains unanswered? Use two details and avoid inventing the inquiry's decision.

2

Responses reveal
complexity

Choices, Actions, and Speech Reveal Complexity

Earlier promise	"I will go back when they tell us what happened makes an explanation the condition of returning.
Later words	"I have Monday substitutes an immediate obligation for that demanded explanation.
Later action	She takes the coat and returns; the inquiry's decision remains unreported.

Changed action does not establish satisfaction, forgiveness or knowledge of the accident's cause.

3

Significant Events in a Plot

Significant Events in a Plot

- 1 **Repeated expectation** Each morning the envelopes suggest a possible answer; each morning she puts them down.
- 2 **Pressure** The counted coins and Monday's rent add a deadline and material need.
- 3 **Disappointment** Catalogue and bill arrive rather than the reported inquiry decision.
- 4 **Choice** The coat and return answer the immediate work question while the explanation remains open.

4

The Function of Conflict in a Text

Three things to establish about any ending

Your turn: distinguish two questions

Leah returns to the factory. Does that resolve the whole conflict? Separate the practical work question from the demand for an explanation. Identify what the text actually supplies for each.

Try both a resolution reading and a qualified reading before choosing your claim.

Three things to establish about any ending, in detail

Three things to establish about any ending

1. The denouement

the resolution of the anticipation, suspense, or central conflicts

what was settled - and for whom

2. What is never shown

an unseen character, an action that preceded the first page

use what the text says; do not invent the missing scene

3. Whether it resolves at all

some plots have unresolved endings

an unresolved ending is a CHOICE, not a failure to finish

**Connect an ending to your interpretation of the WHOLE work
- and an ending is how the parts add up.**

What was resolved, what was never shown, and whether the text resolves at all

The Function of Conflict in a Text

Settled	Leah goes back to the factory on Monday.
Unreported	The inquiry decision and the accident itself are not presented.
Continuing pressure	The jar remains in the final sentence, preserving the material concern.
Interpretation	The practical response coexists with an unresolved demand for explanation.

Offstage evidence means the text's references to an event, not an imagined reconstruction of it.

Three ways a conflict ends

RESOLVED

a central question is
answered or a conflict settled

UNRESOLVED

the conflict stands, and
the text ends anyway

DISSOLVED

the original stakes lose
force or are reframed

The second and third are not failures of plot. Check which
questions remain open and what the ending emphasizes instead

Monday settles whether Leah returns to work while leaving the inquiry unreported. Different questions can have different outcomes.

5

Language and perspective

Details, Diction, and Syntax Reveal Perspective

Leah's language	"When they tell us expects an answer; "I have Monday redirects attention to immediate time.
Aunt's question	"Then you have your answer? tests whether the return means that the earlier condition was met.
Narration	Reports actions and dialogue without supplying the inquiry decision or a claim of forgiveness.

Perspective is shown through selected words and information. Different access alone does not prove an unreliable narrator.

6

Developing a Literary Thesis Statement

Developing a Literary Thesis Statement

- 1 **Plot report** Leah goes back to work.
- 2 **Overclaim** Leah forgives the factory because the inquiry satisfies her.
- 3 **Problem** Neither forgiveness nor the decision is stated.
- 4 **Defensible thesis** The story makes returning to ordinary work a response to economic pressure while leaving Leah's demand for explanation unsettled.

Order by claim, not by chapter

ORDERED BY THE TEXT

the beginning

the middle

the end

page order alone supplies no argument; explain the relationships between events

ORDERED BY YOUR CLAIMS

the first thing
to establish

what it makes possible

the reading
it supports

For Monday, link the promise, rent and final jar. Organise those details around the changing condition of return.

7

Developing Commentary

Developing Commentary

From quotation to reasoning

“I have Monday” replies to a question about an answer, but names a day instead. In the context of “Monday’s rent”, the substitution makes obligation immediate while leaving the inquiry unexplained. It therefore supports return under pressure rather than an assured reconciliation.

Explain how the words support your thesis; naming a device or repeating the quotation leaves the link unstated.

Four habits, and their revisions

Summary	Leah takes her coat and goes back.
Unsupported feeling	Everyone feels happy at the end.
Invented cause	The inquiry proves the factory innocent.
Revision task	Choose one statement. Replace it with a claim supported by actual words, or explain why it must be removed.

Attempt before advancing. A revision may need more evidence, not just different wording.

Four habits, and their revisions, in detail

THE HABIT	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE	TURN IT INTO
SUMMARY	<i>"Then she leaves and the house is sold."</i>	what the ORDER of those two facts does
DEVICE-SPOTTING	<i>"The poet uses a simile here."</i>	what the ground of the comparison commits to
BIOGRAPHY	<i>"The author had lost her own home."</i>	what the narrator's account keeps returning to
FEELING REPORTED	<i>"This makes the reader feel sad."</i>	the words that would produce it, quoted

Explain the reasoning, then check whether more evidence is needed.

8

Selecting sufficient evidence

Selecting Relevant and Sufficient Evidence

Promise	Establishes what Leah first demands before returning.
Rent and coins	Show the competing material pressure.
Monday reply	Changes the condition without stating that the inquiry is answered.
Final jar	Keeps the pressure present after the practical decision.

Together these details support a qualified reading across the complete short story. A single final sentence cannot substitute for evidence from a full novel.

Worked example – what an ending withholds

Model interpretation of the complete teaching story

Leah's return settles the immediate work question but leaves her demand for an explanation unresolved. The promise to wait for an answer is followed by the aunt's coins and "Monday's rent". Her later "I have Monday" names that obligation in place of the answer she wanted. The final jar keeps the economic pressure visible after she leaves. The ending therefore presents survival continuing without an assured account of the accident, rather than proving reconciliation or forgiveness.

A developed model using actual evidence, with no guaranteed score or claim to be an authentic exam answer.

Exam tips

- 1 Read the whole work** Connect the ending to earlier conditions, expectations and pressures.
- 2 Separate questions** One practical outcome can be settled while another conflict remains open.
- 3 Use actual evidence** Analyse references to offstage events; do not invent what was not narrated.
- 4 Revise** Test contrary details and qualify a claim that exceeds the evidence.

9

Recap

Unit 9 – key takeaways

1

Change

explain what changed and why it matters

2

After the crisis

connect later action to earlier expectations

3

Suspense

accumulates as options narrow

4

Unresolved

test what remains open and its effect

Check yourself

- 1 **Change** How does Leah's final action differ from her earlier condition?
- 2 **Resolution** Which question is answered and which remains unreported?
- 3 **Evidence** Explain why the jar matters at both its appearances.
- 4 **Counterclaim** Why does returning not prove that Leah is satisfied with the inquiry?