

1.5 Identifying the narrator or speaker

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS narrator 叙述者 • point of view 叙述视点 • perspective 视角 • character 人物 • setting 背景

Objective

Build the skills to identify the **narrator** 叙述者 or speaker.

You must be able to:

- state what narrators and speakers do
- distinguish perspective from point of view
- state the CED's warning about the author
- explain why the distinction matters for analysis

1 Worked examples

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

■ What they do

Narrators or speakers relate accounts to readers and establish a relationship between the text and the reader. They do two things: tell, and position the reader.

■ Two terms

Perspective refers to how narrators, characters or speakers **see their circumstances**; **point of view** refers to **the position from which** a narrator or speaker relates the events. One is a way of seeing, the other a place to stand.

■ The warning

A speaker or narrator is not necessarily the author. The CED states it flatly because the error is common and it wrecks an analysis.

■ Why it matters

Attributing a narrator's view to the author converts a literary choice into a biographical claim, and the evidence in the text no longer supports what is being said.

2 Practice

2.1 State the two things narrators and speakers do. [2]

2.2 Distinguish perspective from point of view. [2]

2.3 The CED warns about the author.

(a) State the warning. [1]

(b) Explain why the error damages an analysis. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Point of view refers to [1]

- **A** how a speaker sees circumstances
- **B** the position from which events are related
- **C** the author's opinions
- **D** the setting

3.2 A narrator is [1]

- **A** always the author
- **B** not necessarily the author
- **C** never a character
- **D** always reliable

3.3 A student writes that the author believes what the narrator says.

(a) State the error. [1]

(b) Explain what the student should write instead.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 they relate accounts to readers and establish a relationship between the text and the reader.

2.2 perspective is how a narrator, character or speaker sees their circumstances; point of view is the position from which events are related.

2.3 (a) a speaker or narrator is not necessarily the author. (b) it converts a literary choice into a biographical claim, which the text's own evidence cannot support.

3.1 B. a position, not a way of seeing.

3.2 B. the CED's flat statement.

3.3 (a) attributing the narrator's view to the author. (b) that the narrator holds the view, and then what the text does with it.