

8.1 The function of structure in a text

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS ideas and images in a poem may extend beyond a single line or stanza 跨行跨节 • interrupted pattern

Objective

Build the skills to explain **interrupted patterns** 打断的规律.

You must be able to:

- state what ideas and images may do across lines
- state the CED's claim about punctuation
- state what an interruption in a pattern creates
- explain why the interruption is the analytic target

1 Worked examples

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

■ Across lines

Ideas and images in a poem may extend beyond a single line or stanza. A line break is not a boundary of meaning.

■ Punctuation

Punctuation is often crucial to the understanding of a text. In poetry a comma can decide which of two words a phrase attaches to.

■ Interruptions

When structural patterns are created in a text, any interruption in the pattern creates a point of emphasis. The pattern is what makes the break audible.

■ The target

A regular pattern is a background. The one line that breaks it is where the poem is pointing, so an analysis should start with the exception rather than the rule.

2 Practice

2.1 State what ideas and images may do across lines. [2]

2.2 State what an interruption in a pattern creates. [2]

2.3 The exception is the target.

(a) Explain why. [2]

(b) State the CED's claim about punctuation. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 An interruption in a structural pattern creates a point of [1]

- **A** emphasis
- **B** confusion
- **C** silence
- **D** rhyme

3.2 A line break is [1]

- **A** not a boundary of meaning
- **B** always the end of an idea
- **C** decorative
- **D** required

3.3 A poem of regular quatrains has one five-line stanza.

(a) State what this creates. [1]

(b) Explain why an analysis should begin there.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 they may extend beyond a single line or stanza, so a line break is not a boundary of meaning.

2.2 a point of emphasis, because the pattern makes the break audible.

2.3 (a) a regular pattern is a background, so the break is where the poem is pointing.
(b) punctuation is often crucial to the understanding of a text.

3.1 A. emphasis.

3.2 A. not a boundary of meaning.

3.3 (a) a point of emphasis. (b) the regular stanzas establish an expectation and the fifth line is the poem marking something as exceptional.