The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency

**Setting**

5. Agree or disagree with the following statements:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Agree | Disagree |
| The setting seems recognizable to me |  |  |
| The setting gives me a sense of the place  |  |  |
| The setting seems idyllic  |  |  |

**Narration**

1. Finish these statements by filling in the blanks and crossing out the wrong options in the text below:

The choice to place the point of view with\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gives the reader an opportunity to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

The choice to make the narrator omniscient/limited/non-omniscient makes us able to understand\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The narration seems reliable/unreliable because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Characterization**

1. Insert the right letter next to the right concept:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Concept* | *Answer* | *Definition* |  |
| Character |  | A character who is described as a type and not an individual. This type of character often does not have a name or has a common name like James Jackson.  | A |
| Round character |  | To find characteristics in a text that are explicitly mentioned like “she had blond hair”.  | B |
| Flat character |  | When a character changes his/her behaviour, thoughts or the like in the course of a story.  | C |
| Characterise |  | The way a character acts.  | D |
| Direct characterization |  | One of the groups in a society that different types of people are divided into according to their jobs, income, education etc.  | E |
| Indirect characterization |  | A person who is seen as typical for a group like a typical man or woman. Often a description that is negative.  | F |
| Development |  | The way a character interacts with other characters in a book, film etc.  | G |
| Behaviour |  | A person in a book, play, film etc. | H |
| Thoughts |  | To interpret the description of a character by looking at the person’s thoughts, behaviour, relationships etc. E.g. when you can tell that a character is sad even though it does not say “she is sad”.  | I |
| Stereotype  |  | What a character remembers, realises or thinks of.  | J |
| Social class |  | A character who has a distinct personality which is described in detail. | K |
| Relationship |  | To analyse a person’s actions, appearance, relationships, beliefs etc. in fiction.  | L |

**Theme**

1. Compare your own opinion to Mma Ramotswe’s:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | My opinion | Mma Ramotswe’s opinion  |
| You should take care of your relatives  |  |  |
| Your job should benefit other people  |  |  |
| Obesity is positive (i.e. a sign of prosperity)  |  |  |

**Intertextuality**

1. New York Times reviewer Alida Becker has called Mma Ramotswe “the Miss Marple of Botswana” in a 2002 review, and Mma Ramotswe is asked whether she is said character in the first episode of the TV-series about her. Miss Marple is an iconic detective from the Golden Age of crime fiction (roughly the 1920s and 1930s) who was created by Agatha Christie. Research Miss Marple, and conclude on whether the two are similar to an extent where you think the writer Alexander McCall Smith had Miss Marple in mind when he created Mma Ramotswe.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Miss Marple | Mma Ramotswe | Most detectives in crime fiction  |
| Female  |  |  |  |
| Tea as a favourite beverage  |  |  |  |
| Elderly |  |  |  |
| Single |  |  |  |
| Amateur detective  |  |  |  |
| Unusually curious  |  |  |  |
| Common sense approach |  |  |  |
| Underestimated by other people  |  |  |  |
| Gentlewoman  |  |  |  |
| Unusual way of solving cases  |  |  |  |