

# Boost Free Lessons - Year 9 English

## Lesson 14: Reading Drama: Character Perspective

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the script extract below carefully. Stage directions are shown in square brackets. The line numbers will help you refer to specific parts.

### Script: Two Versions

- 1 [A kitchen table. NOOR sits with a laptop closed in front of her. Her
- 2 brother HAMZA stands in the doorway with his coat still on.]
- 3
- 4 HAMZA: You told them I said yes.
- 5
- 6 NOOR: I told them you were considering it.
- 7
- 8 HAMZA: Ilyas rang me at work. At work, Noor. To congratulate me.
- 9
- 10 NOOR: Then Ilyas heard what he wanted to hear, which is what Ilyas does.
- 11
- 12 [HAMZA does not move from the doorway.]
- 13
- 14 HAMZA: What exactly did you say.
- 15
- 16 NOOR: I said my brother is a sensible man who will do the sensible thing.
- 17
- 18 HAMZA: That is not the same as considering it.
- 19
- 20 NOOR: [opening the laptop] No. It isn't.
- 21
- 22 [Pause.]
- 23
- 24 HAMZA: You've already sent the forms.
- 25
- 26 NOOR: I've already filled them in. There's a difference, and you know there
- 27 is, and if you'd wanted to stop me you had eleven days to say so.
- 28
- 29 HAMZA: I was going to say so tonight.
- 30
- 31 NOOR: [not looking up] I know. That's why I filled them in on Tuesday.
- 32
- 33 [HAMZA takes off his coat. He does not sit down.]



### Worked Example 1

**How does the extract present two different perspectives on the same events?**

1. In drama, perspective is revealed through what each character emphasises.
2. Hamza focuses on what was **said**, treating Noor's words as a promise made on his behalf.
3. Noor focuses on what was **meant**, distinguishing between considering and agreeing.
4. Neither is lying. The disagreement is about interpretation, which is why both positions sound reasonable.

**Model:** Hamza judges the events by what was said, insisting Noor spoke for him. Noor judges them by what she technically said, distinguishing “considering it” from agreement. Both accounts are accurate, which is what makes the conflict difficult to resolve.

**Remember:** In drama, perspective is shown through what each character **emphasises**, and through **stage directions**. A strong scene gives both characters a defensible position.



**Question 1:** Answer the following questions. Give the line numbers you used in your answers.

1. Where is the scene set?

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2. What is Hamza still wearing when he enters?

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3. Who rang Hamza at work?

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4. What does Noor say she actually told them?

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5. How many days does Noor say Hamza had to object?

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6. What does Hamza do at the end of the extract?

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**Question 2:** Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Explain the effect of the stage direction showing Hamza does not move from the doorway.

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2. What does Noor's line about Ilyas suggest about her?

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3. Explain the significance of Noor opening the laptop when she does.

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4. Why does the writer place a pause where it appears?

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5. Whose perspective do you find more sympathetic? Use evidence from the extract.

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**Answers and Model Responses:** Reading Drama: Character Perspective**Question 1**

1. A kitchen table.
2. His coat.
3. Ilyas.
4. That Hamza was considering it.
5. Eleven days.
6. He takes off his coat, but does not sit down.

**Question 2**

1. Model: Standing in the doorway shows he has not committed to the conversation and could still leave. It keeps him physically outside the room, which mirrors his position in a decision that has been made without him.
2. Model: She deflects responsibility onto Ilyas rather than answering the accusation, which shows she is quick and defensive. It also suggests she anticipated being challenged.
3. Model: She opens it immediately after conceding that her words were not the same as considering. The action gives her somewhere to look and moves the scene on, which lets her admit something without having to face him.
4. Model: The pause falls after Noor's admission and before Hamza works out what she has done. It gives the audience time to reach the conclusion just ahead of him, which increases the tension.
5. Model: Hamza is more sympathetic on the surface, since a decision has been made for him and he learned of it from someone else. However, Noor's final line reveals she filled in the forms on Tuesday precisely because she knew he would delay, which suggests a longer pattern the extract only hints at. Without knowing what the decision is, the audience is deliberately left unable to settle it.

