

Abi-Training: Analysing fiction

Englisch · Klasse 12 · mittel

Name: _____ Datum: _____

Excerpt (invented, for practice): The letter had been on the kitchen table for three days. Nadia moved it when she wiped the table, put it back in the same place, squared its edges with the salt cellar. Her mother watched her do this and said nothing, which was its own kind of speaking. On the fourth morning the envelope was gone. „I put it in your room," her mother said, not turning from the sink. „You'll open it when you're ready." Nadia looked at the empty rectangle of table where it had been. It seemed, absurdly, larger than the letter itself.

1 Narrative technique: Identify and explain.

Third-person limited? Omniscient? Look at whose perceptions are given („It seemed ...").

- a) Narrative perspective (point of view) — give evidence. _____
- b) Which character's thoughts do we have access to, and where does the narrator stay outside? _____

2 Symbols and images: Explain what the following stand for and how the text makes this clear.

A symbol is a concrete thing that carries an abstract meaning — say which meaning and quote the words that suggest it.

- a) the letter

- b) squaring its edges with the salt cellar

- c) the „empty rectangle" that seems larger than the letter

3 Characters and relationship: What do we learn about Nadia and her mother, and about the relationship between them, from what they do and don't say?

Indirect characterisation: silence, small actions, „not turning from the sink".

- a) Nadia: _____
- b) Her mother: _____
- c) The relationship: _____

4 Write an analysis (200 to 250 words) of how the excerpt creates tension without any dramatic event.

Point - quote - explanation for every claim. Present tense. Focus on the „how", not the „what".

- a) Thesis, narrative perspective, time structure, symbols, characterisation through gesture and silence, conclusion.

