Art and literature

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each critical term with its meaning.

1 narrative perspective	____	a material or form used to create an artwork
2 unreliable narrator	____	b way elements are arranged in an image
3 character development	____	c response of professional reviewers
4 central theme	____	d main idea explored by a work
5 figurative language	____	e viewpoint from which a story is told
6 visual composition	____	f artwork designed for a particular location
7 artistic medium	____	g person who selects and interprets an exhibition
8 site-specific work	____	h storyteller whose account cannot be fully trusted
9 curator	____	i change and growth of fictional figures
10 critical reception	____	j language using metaphor, symbol or comparison

2 Complete the critical collocations.

composition | **development** | **language** | **medium** | **perspective** | **reception** | **theme** | **work**

1 adopt a first-person narrative _____

2 trace a character's _____

3 explore a central _____

4 use vivid figurative _____

5 analyse visual _____

6 experiment with a new artistic _____

7 create a site-specific _____

8 receive a mixed critical _____

3 Choose the most precise term for the context.

1 The viewpoint through which events are presented: *narrative perspective / central theme*.

2 A storyteller whose version is doubtful: *unreliable narrator / minor character*.

3 The growth of a fictional person: *character development / plot progression*.

4 Metaphor and symbolism: *figurative language / literary setting*.

5 The arrangement of shape, colour and space: *visual composition / artistic medium*.

6 A work created for one location: *site-specific work / permanent collection*.

7 The person responsible for shaping an exhibition: *curator / critic*.

8 Professional response after release: *critical reception / publication history*.

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4 Complete the exhibition review with terms from the box.

artistic medium | **central theme** | **character development** | **critical reception** | **curator** | **figurative language** | **narrative perspective** | **site-specific work** | **unreliable narrator** | **visual composition**

The **1** _____ brings paintings and fiction together around memory as a **2** _____. One installation is a **3** _____ responding to the old station building. Its unusual **4** _____ combines projected text and glass. Strong **5** _____ guides the viewer through colour and empty space. The accompanying story uses a shifting **6** _____ and an **7** _____. Rich **8** _____ supports gradual **9** _____. The exhibition has received a largely positive **10** _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Interpretation and context
Works do not arrive with a single complete meaning. Viewers and readers notice different features because they bring distinct experiences, expectations and knowledge. Historical context can explain references that are no longer obvious, while form directs attention through rhythm, perspective or composition. Interpretation should remain open to debate, but not every claim is equally strong: a persuasive reading uses evidence from the work and acknowledges details that complicate its argument.

1 Why may people notice different features? _____

2 What can historical context explain? _____

3 How can form direct attention? _____

4 Why is interpretation open to debate? _____

5 What evidence should a persuasive reading use? _____

6 What difficult details should it acknowledge? _____

6 Rewrite using the expression in capitals.

1 The story is told from the child's viewpoint. **PERSPECTIVE** _____

2 The narrator's account cannot be fully trusted. **UNRELIABLE** _____

3 The installation was designed for the courtyard. **SITE-SPECIFIC** _____

4 Reviewers responded in very different ways. **RECEPTION** _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a **120-150 word** critical response to a book or artwork. Analyse viewpoint, theme, form or medium, and support your interpretation.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Refer to specific evidence. [ ] Acknowledge another possible reading.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Critical terms

1 **e** 2 **h** 3 **i** 4 **d** 5 **j** 6 **b** 7 **a** 8 **f** 9 **g** 10 **c**

2 Critical collocations

1 **perspective** 2 **development** 3 **theme** 4 **language** 5 **composition** 6 **medium** 7 **work** 8 **reception**

3 Precise terms

1 **narrative perspective** 2 **unreliable narrator** 3 **character development** 4 **figurative language**
5 **visual composition** 6 **site-specific work** 7 **curator** 8 **critical reception**

4 Exhibition review

1 **curator** 2 **central theme** 3 **site-specific work** 4 **artistic medium** 5 **visual composition**
6 **narrative perspective** 7 **unreliable narrator** 8 **figurative language** 9 **character development** 10 **critical reception**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 They bring different experiences, expectations and knowledge. 2 References that are no longer obvious. 3 Through rhythm, perspective or composition.
4 Works do not have one complete meaning. 5 Evidence from the work. 6 Details that complicate its argument.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The story adopts the child's narrative **perspective**. 2 The story has an **unreliable narrator**. 3 It is a **site-specific** installation.
4 The work received a mixed critical **reception**.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check analytical precision, textual or visual evidence and alternative interpretations.