

Snapshot: character and situation, explained

What a supplementary reader question tests

- these stories are read for situation and character even more than the main reader is, so the same techniques apply
- a question here usually asks what a character's choice or reaction reveals about them
- some pieces need their form noticed too, a story told in verse still argues a point like any other story
- the setting or situation is often part of the point, not just background

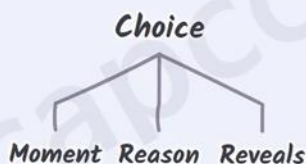
Reading these stories for the answer *

- note the moment a character makes a choice, that moment usually carries the marks
- watch for what the story leaves unsaid, several of these end without spelling out the point
- a narrator's own voice and judgment matter here as much as what happens in the plot
- read the ending twice, it is often where the story's real point lands

Story	Writer	Built to teach
The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse	William Saroyan	a choice explained through reasoning, not through plot alone
The Address	Marga Minco	loss read through what a character notices, not what she says
Mother's Day	J. B. Priestley	a situation turned upside down to make its point
Birth	A. J. Cronin	a single event carrying an entire shift in a character
The Tale of Melon City	Vikram Seth	a verse story that argues a point through its own structure

Character choice vs situation question

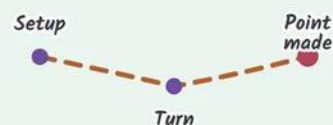
Character's choice



a root box labelled *Choice* branching down to three labelled children: *Moment*, *Reason*, *Reveals*

- find the exact moment a decision is made
- connect it to what the character values or fears
- say what the choice reveals about them

The situation itself



three stops in order along a dashed path: *Setup*, *Turn*, *Point made*, tracing how a situation is built to argue something

- describe what makes the situation unusual or reversed
- trace how it develops across the story
- name what the story is finally arguing through it

a story can be asked about through its character or through its situation, the same story supports both