

1.2 Identifying Writers and Speakers – ANSWER KEY

Try to identify the ethnicity, gender, general age, and region of each writer/speaker. List some specific features that clued you in to these assumptions: accent, vocabulary, pitch, spelling, grammar, etc.

Speaker #1:

white, female, middle aged (37), northeast US (Boston,MA)
higher pitch than males but lower than teenagers or children, the way she pronounces her "o"s
(store, Bob), Standard English grammar, northeastern accent, sounds more nasal

Speaker #2:

african American, male, young adult (20), southern US (Alabama)
deeper voice – African American and male, strong voice – not a child or elderly

Writer #1:

white, male, child (11 or 12), southern USA (Mississippi)
grammar (a-trembling, says to myself, they was said, never thought no more) used in the South by
whites, use of "hell" more like a male?, content more childish

Speaker #3:

hispanic, female, elderly (70s), Southwest (New Mexico)
mispronunciations, accent (dis for this) - Hispanic, hesitation, raspy – elderly, higher pitch – female

Speaker #4:

white, female, young adult (early 20s), Scotland
accent (town, thousand, a lot) – Scottish, higher pitch – female, strong voice – not young or old

Writer #2:

white, female, teenager (young adult), West USA (California)
vocabulary (like, totally, buggin') – California, teenager, female, white; grammar (some people are all)