



Dead Poets Society

1: Answer Key (p. 29)

Checkpoints

1. Neil knew how strict a father Mr. Perry was. It was highly unlikely that Neil would be allowed to enter the play considering the ambitions his father had on his behalf.
2. Neil did not tell his father about the play and that indirectly made a liar out of Mr. Perry, when he denied that his son was in a play. Also see below.
3. Mr. Perry wants his son to succeed in life, but only on his terms, i.e academically speaking and not in arts. He is probably just trying to protect his son from having too many extra-curricular activities that could jeopardize Neil's marks and academic achievement.
4. The scene is very tense. Neil is facing a massive choice that will be immensely important for his future career. Mr. Keating offers advice believing that Neil indeed will speak to his father and tell him how he really feels about acting.
5. Mr. Keating jokes about having taken the monastic oath and that he can have no distractions that may impede his teaching. It seems like his dream in life is to teach and to make a difference while doing so.
6. Mr. Keating simply states that he loves teaching. He would want no other profession.