

Point-of-View

Who is Telling the Story?



- When you read a story, have you ever thought about who is telling it?
- That is called the point of view or POV
- It's the method and perspective an author uses to convey, or tell and explain, the story.
- Writers use point of view to connect with the reader

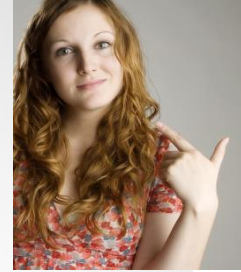
It's All About the Narrator



- Point-of-view is the **narrator's** point-of-view.
 - The narrator is the person telling the story.
 - You can only look at the narration to determine the story's point of view.
 - *Dialogue (characters speaking in quotation marks) does not count as point of view.*

Three Kinds of Point of View

- First person



- Second person



- Third person



First Person POV



- A first-person point of view comes from the narrator of the story, which may be the writer or the main character.
- The narrator witnesses events in the story first hand and expresses how it feels from his or her experience.
- Narrator will use pronouns like
 - I, me, we, us, our, my
 - Sounds a little bit like reading a personal journal or listening to someone talk.

First Person POV



- Example from Percy Jackson:
Look, I didn't want to be a half blood.

If you're reading this because you think you might be one, **my** advice is: close this book right now. Believe whatever lie your mom or dad told you about your birth, and try to lead a normal life.

...

My name is Percy Jackson. **I'm** 12 years old. Until a few months ago, I was a boarding student at Yancy Academy, a private school for troubled kids in upstate New York.

Am I a troubled kid?

Yeah. You could say that.

Second Person POV



- The second person is seldom used in literature.
- The writer speaks directly to the reader.
 - Mostly used when writing business letters or forms, self-help books, speeches, advertising, and sometimes song lyrics.

Second Person POV



- Example from Joeduncko.com

There is darkness everywhere. A small amount of light is radiating from the half moon floating in the sky overhead. There are no stars. It is cold and humid. **You** look around you and find your friends gone. **You** are completely alone.

Wait just a minute!

But the narrator says “you” a lot in the Percy Jackson example. See:

*If you're reading this because **you** think **you** might be one, **my** advice is: close this book right now. Believe whatever lie **your** mom or dad told **you** about **your** birth, and try to lead a normal life.*

It's true, Percy does talk to the reader sometimes. But Percy is still the one narrating the story, so it is still in his “first person” perspective.

Third Person POV

- The third person is the most common type of narration in novels.
- There is an external narrator.
- The narrator is telling a story about other people.
- The narrator will use pronouns like
 - He, she, him, her, they, them, their, (and characters' names).

But wait! There's more!

Three Kinds of Third Person

- Omniscient



- Limited



- Objective



Omniscient Narrator



- a narrator who knows everything that needs to be known about **ALL** the characters and events in the story, and who has privileged access to a character's thoughts, feelings, and motives.
- This kind of narrator never needs to say “maybe” or “perhaps” a character feels something. The narrator **ALWAYS KNOWS**.

Limited Narrator



- **A narrator who only knows the thoughts and feelings of one character.**
- **The narrator uses pronouns like he, she, and they.**

Objective Narrator



- A narrator who can only tell you what can be seen or heard. The narrator cannot know any of the characters' thoughts or feelings.
- The reader is an objective observer. This means we are not influenced by personal feelings or opinions, we only know the facts. We cannot know what the characters are thinking or feeling unless they tell us.

Guess the Narrator

Lilly shivered and sobbed while sitting alone under the tree. Jacob felt a pang of pity for her, and though he worried what the others might say, he walked to her, sat beside her, and offered her his jacket.



Omniscient



Limited



Objective

The Answer Is



Limited

Guess the Narrator

Lilly shivered and sobbed while sitting alone under the tree. Jacob gazed at her with a stare suggestive of pity, and his lips tightened as though he debated something of importance. He gave one timid glance back at the others, and then walked boldly over to Lilly and sat beside her and offered her his Jacket.



Omniscient



Limited



Objective

The Answer Is



Objective

Guess the Narrator

Lilly shivered and tried unsuccessfully not to sob while sitting alone under the tree. She was more embarrassed and miserable than she had ever been. Jacob felt a pang of pity for her, and though he worried what the others might say, he walked to her, sat beside her, and offered her his jacket.



Omniscient



Limited



Objective

The Answer Is



Omniscient

Guess the Narrator

Lilly shivered and sobbed while sitting alone under the tree. Jacob felt a pang of pity for her. He gave one timid look back to the others. They were playing keep-away with the small boy's wallet. He could not tell if any of them were paying attention to him now. Regardless, he went to Lilly, sat beside her, and offered her his Jacket.



Omniscient



Limited



Objective

The Answer Is



Limited

The End