

POINT OF VIEW IN STORYTELLING

Every writer tells his or her story from a certain perspective, or point of view. Some stories are told from the perspective of a narrator who is part of the story, known as first person point of view. Other stories are told from the perspective of a “narrator” who is not in the story at all, which is known as third person point of view. With this exercise, you’ll learn about the difference between first person and third person, two of the most common points of view used in storytelling.

Third Person

The narrator is not in the story, only tells what happens. For example, in the story “Goldilocks and the Three Bears,” the all the characters are called “he,” “she” or “it.”

When deciding if a story is first or third person, conversations in quotation marks don’t count.

First Person

The narrator is a character in the story and often does not know what is going to happen next. He tells the story using the pronouns “I” and “me.” Example:

Robert Louis Stevenson’s Treasure Island:
Well, mother was upstairs with father and I was laying the breakfast-table against the captain’s return when the parlour door opened and a man stepped in on whom I had never set my eyes before.

WHAT IS THE POINT OF VIEW?

Circle the correct point of view for the passage.

I have never forgotten my mother’s advice; I knew she was a wise old horse, and our master thought a great deal of her. Her name was Duchess, but he often called her Pet.

Black Beauty
by Anna Sewell

- A. Third Person B. First Person

These sounds made the little girl’s heart beat fast, for she did not know what made them; but Toto knew, and he walked close to Dorothy’s side, and did not even bark in return.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz
by L. Frank Baum

- A. Third Person B. First Person

Tom and me found the money that the robbers hid in the cave, and it made us rich. We got six thousand dollars apiece—all gold.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
by Mark Twain

- A. Third Person B. First Person

WORD SEARCH FOR FUN!

Words can go across, up, down, diagonally and backwards.

C V I E W T X U N Y
X H W Y H E T R A R
R N A I X S I P R O
C J R R B S Y H R T
C D J Z A N U P A S
W N Y V B C S R T P
N O S R E P T C O O
W R I T E R H E R I
T S R I F E Z F R N
X P E M X M C J O T

narrator	view
third	character
first	writer
person	story
point	

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