



Point-of-View

All about the Narrator



- Point-of-view is only referring to the narrator's point-of-view.
 - You can only look at the narration to determine POV.
 - Words in dialogue do not count.

Three points-of-view

- First person



- Second person



- Third person



First Person POV



- The narrator is in the story and refers to him/herself.
- Narrator will use words like
 - I, me, we, us, our, my

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 almost never used in literature.
- The second person is when the narrator says “You” and puts the reader directly into the story.

Second Person POV



- Example from Joeduncko.com

There is darkness everywhere. A small amount of light is radiating from the halfmoon 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 narrator is telling a story about other people.
- Narrator will use words like
 - He, she, him, her, they, them, their, (and characters' names).

But wait! There's more!

There are 3 types of third person narrators.

- Omniscient



- Limited



- Objective



Omniscient Narrator



- a narrator who knows everything that needs to be known about the characters and events in the story, and who has privileged access to a character's thoughts, feelings, and motives.
- This narrator never needs to say “maybe” or “perhaps” a character feels something. They always know.

Limited Narrator



- a narrator who is confined to what is experienced, thought, or felt by a single character, or at most a limited number of characters.
- They do not seem to be sure of what every character is feeling.

Objective Narrator



- This narrator can only tell you what can be seen or heard. They cannot know anyone's thoughts or feelings.
- We are all objective observers. We can tell others what we see or hear, and we can guess at someone's thoughts, but we can not know what they are thinking 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