

Narrative Perspective

Author's Point of View



Dialogue and Narration

- **Dialogue** = when characters speak.
- **Narration** = when the narrator speaks.
- “**Quotation marks**” separate narration from **dialogue**.

Example

“**Help**” *my cousin Jack said.*
1 2

Identifying **Narrative** Perspective

It's about the **narrator** (who tells the story)

We're **not** looking at **dialogue**.

We don't care what **characters** say.

Only the **narrator's voice** matters.

Pronoun Case

We are trying to figure out the **narrator's view point** on the story.

Perspectives and Signal Words

First-Person	I, me, my, mine, we, us, ours,
Second-Person	you, your
Third-Person	he, she, her, they, them (also character's names)

Secret

“I am in the room”

I = 1st Person

“**You** come in the room.”

You = 2nd Person

“Then **he** or **she** came in the room.”

He or She = 3rd Person

First-Person

Narrator is a part of the story (character).

Often uses **I or **we**.**

Example

I went home. Tim came over. I couldn't play.

Second-Person

Usually for instructions

Uses “You”; from “**your**” perspective.

Examples

First, gather **your** materials. Add 1 cup sugar to flour.

Third-Person

- **Narrator** usually isn't involved.
- Tells other's stories.
- Lots of "He," "She," & character names.

Three Types of **Third**-Person Narration

Does the **narrator** tell...

Thoughts and Feelings of Characters?

Third-Person Omniscient

Narrator is all knowing.

Narrator tells **thoughts** and **feelings** of more than one character.

Omni = All

Scient = Knowing

Example

Tim was mad at Shay. He blamed her. Shay knew Tim would be mad, but she wanted to live her life.

Third-Person Limited

Narrator is **limited** to one character.

Tells **thoughts** & feelings of **one** character

Example

Tim was mad at Shay. He blamed her.
Shay just left without saying anything.
She left a note and then left him.

Third-Person Objective

Narrator does not reveal any character's **thoughts** or feelings.

Only character's **dialogue** and actions are narrated.

Example

Tim slammed the door. He walked upstairs & read a note from Shay. He kicked her trash can & started crying.

Tips on Identifying

- Check **1st** or **2nd-person** before worrying about **objective, limited, or omniscient**.
- Ask, “Who’s story is the narrator telling: his, mine, or someone else’s?”
- Focus on **narration** not **dialogue**.

Practice

1. Read the following passages.
2. Determine the narrator's perspective.
3. Write down your answer.

1

When I was four months old, my mother died suddenly and my father was left to look after me all by himself... I had no brothers or sisters. So through boyhood, from the age of four months onward, there was just us two, my father and me. We lived in an old gypsy caravan behind a filling station”

2

The huge man dropped his blankets and flung himself down and drank from the surface of the green pool. The small man stepped behind him. "Lennie!" he said sharply.

"Lennie, for God" sakes don't drink so much." Lennie continued to snort into the pool. The small man leaned over and shook him by the shoulder. "Lennie you gonna be sick like you was last night." Lennie dipped his whole head under, hat and all... "Tha's good," he said. "You drink some, George." He smiled happily

3

Foresight in Relationships

The previous night, make your plans for the next day and write them down... If you attend an exclusive Samurai's party and feel timid, you cannot do your part in making it a successful party. You had first better prepare by convincing yourself that you will have a grand time. And you should feel grateful for the invitation.

4

Harold Davis took a deep breath and slowly started to peel the gauze from the wound on his grandmother's leg. "Hold on, Grandma. I'm almost done," He said quietly. "Don't worry, baby. It doesn't hurt too much," she quietly replied. "Just take your time." Harold glanced up at his grandmother lying on the couch. He could tell she was in pain from the way she gripped the cushions, but still she managed to smile back at him.

5

They were standing under a tree, each with an arm round the other's neck, and Alice knew which was which in a moment, because one of them had "DUM" embroidered on his collar, and the other "DEE." "I suppose they've each got "TWEEDLE" round at the back of the collar," she said to herself. They stood so still that she quite forgot they were alive, and she was just looking round to see if the word "TWEEDLE" was written at the back of each collar, when she was startled by a voice coming from the one marked "DUM."

Answers

1. First-Person
2. Third-Person Objective
3. Second-Person
4. Third-Person Limited
5. Third-Person Limited