

Point of View

The position of the narrator in relation to the story being told.

FIRST PERSON

The narrator, or the person telling the story, is a character in the book, usually the main character or the *protagonist*. Look for the use of “I” or “we” to indicate first person narration.

SECOND PERSON

The narrator refers to themselves as “you,” which distances them from the events of the story. “You” can also be used to directly address the reader. This type of narration is not very common.

THIRD PERSON

The narrator tells the story of someone else or another group of people. In this type of narration, the person telling the story may be far removed from the characters, or they may have some knowledge of the characters and their thoughts. Key words to look for are “he,” “she,” “them,” “they,” etc.

Objective: The narrator only describes the actions and dialogue of the character. The narrator does not know the character's thoughts or feelings.

Limited: The narrator only knows the thoughts or feelings of one character. They are thus “limited” in their knowledge. Usually this narrator knows the perspective of the main character.

Omniscient: The narrator knows the thoughts and feelings of most or all of the characters. They can reveal the inner perspectives of the characters while not being a part of the story themselves.