

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.
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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.