Point of View Notes

What is it?

• Point of view is the perspective from which a story is told.

1st Person POV

• Story is told from point of view of one of the characters
• the narrator is always “I”
• allows the reader to understand internal struggle of the character
• Key words to look for: I, me, my, we, our

Example:

I just hope someone doesn’t start the Cheese Touch up again, because I don’t need that kind of stress in my life anymore.
—Diary of a Wimpy Kid

• Who is telling the story?
  • A character → 1st person

2nd Person POV

• author talks directly to you, the reader
• is rarely used in novels and never throughout an entire novel
• allows reader to make a personal connection to the story
• Key words to look for: you, your, yours

Example:

None of the children knew who Aslan was any more than you do; but the moment the Beaver had spoken these words everyone felt quite different. Perhaps it has sometimes happened to you in a dream that someone says something which you don’t understand but in the dream it feels as if it had some enormous meaning—either a terrifying one which turns the whole dream into a nightmare or else a lovely meaning too lovely to put into words, which makes the dream so beautiful that you remember it all your life and are always wishing you could get into that dream again. It was like that now.
—The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

3rd Person Omniscient

• the narrator is an outside observer who can tell us the thoughts and feelings of all of the characters in the story
• omni=all
• omniscient=all-knowing
• allows the reader to understand all characters equally
• Key words to look for: he, she, it, they; the word “I” will only be used inside quotation marks.
Example:

At the name of Aslan each one of the children felt something jump in its inside. Edmund felt a sensation of mysterious horror. Peter felt suddenly brave and adventurous. Susan felt as if some delicious smell or some delightful strain of music had just floated by her. And Lucy got the feeling you have when you wake up in the morning and realize that it is the beginning of the holidays or the beginning of Summer.

- The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

- Who is telling the story?
  - an outside narrator

- Whose feelings and thoughts are these?
  - Edmund, Peter, Susan, Lucy’s

- Did we see more than one person’s thoughts and feelings?
  - Yes \(\rightarrow\) 3\(^{rd}\) person omniscient

**3\(^{rd}\) Person Limited**

- the narrator is an outside observer who knows the thoughts and feelings of one character
- allows us to connect to one character specifically
- has a clear main character
- Key words to look for: he, she, it, they; the word “I” will only be used in quotations

*Example:*

“Up!” she screeched. Harry heard her walking toward the kitchen and then the sound of the frying pan being put on the stove. He rolled onto his back and tried to remember the dream he had been having. It had been a good one. There had been a flying motorcycle in it. He had a funny feeling he’d had the same dream before

- *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*

- Who is telling the story?
  - an outside narrator

- Whose feelings and thoughts are these?
  - Harry’s

- Is there a clear main character?
  - yes

- Did we see more than one person’s thoughts and feelings?
  - No \(\rightarrow\) 3\(^{rd}\) person limited
Point of View Notes

What is it?

• Point of view is the __________________ from which a __________ is told.

1st Person POV

• story is ______ from the point of _______ of one of the __________________________
• the __________________ is always “___”
• allows the reader to understand __________ __________ of the character
• Key words to look for: I, _____, my, ______, our

Example:
I just hope someone doesn’t start the Cheese Touch up again, because I don’t need that kind of stress in my life anymore.
–Diary of a Wimpy Kid

• Who is telling the story?
  • A ___________________ → ___ person

2nd Person POV

• author _______ directly _____ ________, the __________________
• is _________ used in ___________ and never throughout an entire novel
• allows reader to make a _____________ connection to the story
• Key words to look for: ______, ____________, _____________

Example:
None of the children knew who Aslan was any more than you do; but the moment the Beaver had spoken these words everyone felt quite different. Perhaps it has sometimes happened to you in a dream that someone says something which you don’t understand but in the dream it feels as if it had some enormous meaning—either a terrifying one which turns the whole dream into a nightmare or else a lovely meaning too lovely to put into words, which makes the dream so beautiful that you remember it all your life and are always wishing you could get into that dream again. It was like that now.
–The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

3rd Person Omniscient

• the narrator is an outside __________________ who can tell us the _____________ and __________________ of ______ of the characters in the story
• omni=______
• omniscient=________________________
• allows the reader to __________________ all characters __________________
• Key words to look for: _____, ______, it, they; the word “I” will only be used inside quotation marks.
Example:

At the name of Aslan each one of the children felt something jump in its inside. Edmund felt a sensation of mysterious horror. Peter felt suddenly brave and adventurous. Susan felt as if some delicious smell or some delightful strain of music had just floated by her. And Lucy got the feeling you have when you wake up in the morning and realize that it is the beginning of the holidays or the beginning of Summer.

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- Who is telling the story?
  • an outside ________________

- Whose feelings and thoughts are these?
  • Edmund, Peter, Susan, Lucy’s

- Did we see more than one person’s thoughts and feelings?
  • ______ → 3rd person omniscient

3rd Person Limited

- the narrator is an outside observer who knows the ________________ and ________________ of _______ character
- allows us to ________________ to ______ ________________ specifically
- has a clear _______ character
- Key words to look for: _____, ______, it, they; the word “I” will only be used in quotations

Example:

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-Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone

- Who is telling the story?
  • an outside ________________

- Whose feelings and thoughts are these?
  • __________

- Is there a clear main character?
  • ______

- Did we see more than one person’s thoughts and feelings?
  • _____ → 3rd person ________________