

Mr. Thom's Notes

Announcements:

- A calendar of remaining online lessons will go out to the public this week.
- A Free Response Essay on the day of the exam (45 minutes). We won't know until April 3rd if you will be responding to a poem, prose excerpt, or an open prompt. But there will be NO MULTIPLE CHOICE SECTION & ONLY 1 ESSAY!!!
- If you know someone who needs these AP resources but does not have access to the internet, please go to: cb.org/tech
- Check out 2009's film version of The Turn of the [Screw--Ghost Story: The Turn of the Screw](#)

Goals:

Identify and describe details of diction or syntax (sentence structure/arrangement of words) in a text that reveal a narrator's or speaker's perspective.

Purpose:

Focusing on a narrator's perspective allows readers to recognize how their experiences with and interpretations of the text might be impacted by the narrator.

This is high-level stuff!!! These are the observations that are often rewarded with high scores (8s & 9s)

The Turn of the Screw (1898) by Henry James (U.S. born lived in Britain)

Framed narrative-- a story within a story

Fire Place Scene: Character tells a story to a group during the story

Governess (teacher/caretaker)- sees ghosts and wants to save the kids, also is attracted to the children's father (biased)

Who is the narrator? The governess? An outside voice? (Ambiguity)

Text comes from a man who transcribed from a document "in old faded ink" received a story from a man who knew the person-- and this person may have been in love with governess.

Outset of Novel:

Governess as narrator--Well, that i think is what I came for--to be carried away...***I'm rather easily carried away***" (31).

--The narrator admits to "easily" getting "carried away."

After seeing two ghosts:

I scarce know how to put my story into words that shall be a credible picture of my state of mind but I was in these days literally able to find a joy in the extraordinary state of mind; but I was I these days **literally able to find a joy in the extraordinary fight of heroism** the occasion demanded of me...**We were cut off...We were united in our danger** (53).

--Narrator admits to not knowing how to make her story "credible." Also the narrator is excited about being a hero, excited about the "danger." Narrator is also "cut off" from society, so imagination can run wild.

After seeing more ghosts escaping from Sunday Church services:

Tormented, in the hall, with difficulties and obstacles, I remember sinking down at the foot of the staircase--suddenly collapsing there on the lowest step and then, with a rulusion, recalling that it was exactly where, more than a month before, in the darkness of night and just so bowed with evil things, I had seen the spectre of the most horrible of women (87).

--Commas and em dashes emphasize anxiety and not thinking clearly--scattered thoughts.

--How does the unreliable narrator impact the reader?

--Why would James create an atmosphere of doubt about his tale?

--How does this mystery or confusion relate to a central idea in the text?

Story is told like playing *Telephone*--it's unreliable!

What have you read this year? Examine the speaker and how it relates to the significance of the text.

When the Emperor was Divine: Narrator is 3rd person--matter of fact, focusing on perspectives and experiences of 3 different characters (mother, boy, & girl)--then it shifts to the father's 1st person pov (and he is furious, fed-up, and sarcastic).

Titus Andronicus: Perspectives are shared monologues & soliloquies, mostly by Titus, who is consumed with loyalty, rigidness, sorrow, and rage, and Aaron who is consumed with chaos and cruelty & vengeance for the racism he endures.

The Road: The father narrates, and he is caught between two worlds, past and present--memory of past is fading and also making him bitter and cynical.

The Importance of Being Earnest: Narrators are all shallow and liars.

A Thousand Splendid Suns: The speaker shifts focus on multiple characters and interjects with his opinions and observations which range from compassionate, rational, and angry.

A Good Man is Hard to Find: The speaker is matter of fact, but also subtly, and wryly sarcastic.

Narrator's Perspective			
Novel/Play	Who is the narrator?	Describe the narrator (include emotional, physical, and psychological observations)	Textual Evidence

Who is the narrator?

Describe the narrator (emotional, physical, psychological observations)

Textual Evidence:

Skills: 4.C: Identify and describe details, diction, or syntax in a text that reveal a narrators or speaker's perspective.

Key Questions:

--What is the narrator or speaker's tone--look at diction imagery details and syntax that create the tone.

--What is the relationship between a narrator's or speaker's tone toward a particular subject and their perspective?

--How does a narrator's or speaker's background and perspective shape shape the tone toward a subject.

--How do diction imagery, details, and syntax in a text support multiple tones?

--How might a change in tone toward a subject over the course of a text indicate a narrator's or speaker's change?

2008 Form B Prompt: *In some works of literature, childhood and adolescence are portrayed as times graced by innocence and a sense of wonder; in other works, they are depicted as times of tribulation and terror. Focusing on a single novel or play, explain how its representation of childhood or adolescence shapes the meaning of the works as a whole.*

You may select a work from the list below or choose another appropriate novel or play of similar literary merit. Avoid mere play summary.

Write an introduction to this essay prompt. Within your introduction highlight your thesis and So What?

Tip: Look at the List after you compose your own list of what you have read.

Tip: childhood, adolescence, teen-years, youth, etc.

It does not take a high-level degree in sociology or psychology to know that a child is heavily influenced by not only his/her environment, but also his/hers parents or parental figures. In William Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*, the reader is presented with two teenage "villains": Demetrius and Chiron. These young men come from a war-torn environment, knowing only conflict with the Roman empire, and have been raised by their mother Tamora, the "queen of the Goths." Raising teenage boys in such an environment as a single mother is, no doubt, a daunting task in and of itself. However, Shakespeare compounds the intricacy of their adolescence by providing them with a male, role model, a most "inexorable wretch" named Aaron, who is consumed with chaos, terror, and an obsession for plotting and committing atrocities. Through the characters of Demetrius and Chiron, Shakespeare elucidates to the reader the crucial impacts parental and societal nurturing have on teenagers.