



First Person: Because the first person narrator understands other characters only by interpreting what other characters say and do and cannot enter the minds of the other characters, s/he is unable to grasp their inner thoughts. Consequently, the reader must determine whether the narrator's perspective is trustworthy or not. It is essential to determine if first person narrator is a reliable observer of the world about him/her!

Questions about First Person Point of View:

- Does the narrator have biases which may color his/her perceptions of other characters and make his/her conclusions inaccurate?
- Do you need to question the validity and accuracy of the narrator's opinions? Why?
- Does limited sensitivity, knowledge, or powers of language limit the narrator's ability to tell the story accurately?
- Is there a discrepancy between what the narrator thinks is happening and what you, the reader, understand? First person offers excellent opportunities for dramatic irony. Often the heart of the story may lie in the difference between what the narrator perceives and what the reader perceives.
- Does the narrator represent the author's perspective or contradict it? First person offers no opportunity for direct interpretation by the author and the presence of irony will undercut the narrator's story.
 - Are there shifts in point of view? A change in narrator changes the biases through which the story is told. If narrators change, consider what the purposes of the author might be.

Qualities of Omniscient Point of View:

- The narrator knows all about the characters, externally and internally.
- The narrator may comment on events and characters, explaining their significance to the reader.

- The narrator may offer multiple perspectives on the same event. 3 Most flexible and permits the widest scope. Used skillfully, the author can achieve simultaneous breadth and depth. Also the most subject to abuse. Continually shifting viewpoint may cause a breakdown in coherence or unity.
- The narrator may shift focus from a close view to a larger perspective

Qualities of Limited 3rd Person Point of View:

- Story portrayed through eyes of one character
- A sense of distance from other characters
- Approximates conditions of life in that only one character's thoughts are known. Story more unified in this point of view.