

Narrators and Understanding Characterisation:

Point of View:

Our understanding of the story is based on what is provided within the text. The descriptions of events, places, people and interactions are all reliant of the perspective with which the author chooses to present the narrative structure.

As such, there are three different accepted modes of perspective with which to frame the narrative.

First-Person:

- When the point of view which the reader finds him/herself in, is situated in a personal capacity of a character.
- The text is subjective and based on an individual's own perspective.
- I; Me; Mine and My – the use of personal pronouns within the text suggests that the perspective is biased towards an individual.
- The audience then only knows what the narrator knows. Knowledge and perspective is then limited to the individual.
- The narrator's limitations must be acknowledge when reading such a text, and questions must be asked about how the narrator's impression of a sequence of events or a conversation have been distorted to present a singular perspective.

Second-Person:

- The point of view is secondary. This means that the narrative, most likely the author, often talks directly to the audience, asking them to engage in the reading of the text from an often more personal and intimate space.
- You and Your are indicators of an author using second-person narrators.
- This is a rare form of writing in literature and is very difficult to get right.

Third-Person:

- The narrator is on the outside looking in, without being directly involved with the action.
- There are generally two types of third-person point of views:

Third-Person Omniscient

- All is known to the reader and all characters thoughts and feelings are exposed.

Third-Person Limited

- When the reader is limited to a particular individual or individual's perspective within sections of the text or this limitation is found throughout an entire work.
- It is the author's voice which provides the detail within the description of the text, in comparison to the first-person narrator whose singular voice is heard throughout the text.