

Point of View Notes

1st Person point of view can be fairly easy to determine. The key to identifying 1st person point of view is the use of the pronouns such as “I”, “me”, “we”, “us” “our”, etc. The narrator is a character in the story and can tell us what other characters SAY, what other characters DO (ACTIONS), what other characters LOOK like, and the EFFECT characters have on other characters. But the narrator CANNOT tell us what any other character, besides himself or herself, is THINKING or FEELING (unless the narrator is a “mind-reader”).

EXAMPLE OF 1st PERSON POINT OF VIEW:

The stars were burning brightly in the night sky. The evening breeze felt cool on **my** skin. It was the last night of summer break and **I** was calm, oddly calm. It's not that **I** was excited to go back to school. **I** wasn't. School is a lot of work for **me**. But **I** was excited to see my friends again, and **I** knew that she would be there

2nd Person Point of View (POV):

2nd Person POV can be determined fairly easy, as well. 2nd Person POV sounds like the writer is talking directly to YOU. Advertisements and directions often are written in 2nd Person POV.

Look for words like: YOU, YOUR, YOURSELF, etc.

EXAMPLE OF 2nd PERSON POV:

If you are confused about something in class, don't wait. Raise your hand and ask for help immediately. Do it while your teacher is still explaining the material. Your teacher will probably be happy that you are taking an active part in your education and should attempt to explain the material in a different way. If you are still confused, ask your teacher if he or she is available after class to give you additional instruction. You are worth it. Don't give up on yourself.

3rd Person POV:

There are three different 3rd Person POVs:

- 3rd Person Objective (zero character thoughts or feelings are shared with the reader)
- 3rd Person Limited (ONLY ONE character's thoughts or feelings are shared with the reader)

- 3rd Person Omniscient (MORE THAN ONE...Maybe even EVERY character's... thoughts and feelings are shared with the reader)

*REMEMBER: When trying to determine the point of view from which a story is being told, you **ignore any words in the dialogue** (when characters are speaking).*

EXAMPLE: Red looked across the prairie. He didn't see anything concerning. He wondered why Texas Joe had hollered like that. Texas Joe turned to him. The ghost that Texas Joe had just seen was gone. Texas Joe swatted at the air. Now he felt crazy. "You have to believe me, Red. It was just here," said Texas Joe. Red scowled at him in disbelief. "What was just here, Joe?" he asked. Red was angry with Texas Joe for disturbing his sleep for no apparent reason.

Some students may see the word "You" in the dialogue above and think, "Hey! This is 2nd Person POV because I see the word "You"! But actually, the example above is written in 3rd person. To figure out which 3rd person, remember you have to look for any character's thoughts or feelings. I will underline the thoughts and feelings:

Red looked across the prairie. He didn't see anything concerning. **He wondered why** Texas Joe had hollered like that. Texas Joe turned to him. The ghost that Texas Joe had just seen was gone. **Texas Joe** swatted at the air. **Now he felt crazy**. "~~You have to believe me, Red. It was just here,~~" said Texas Joe. Red scowled at him in disbelief. "~~What was just here, Joe?~~" he asked. **Red was angry** with Texas Joe for disturbing his sleep for no apparent reason.

Ok, I see Red's thoughts and feelings. I also see that Texas Joe "felt crazy". So, because I can see more than one character's thoughts and/ or feelings, this passage was written in 3rd Person OMNISCIENT POV!

STEAL Strategy	
S	<u>Says</u> - what the character Says
T	<u>Thoughts</u> - what the character THINKS
E	<u>Effect on others</u> - how other characters react to the character
A	<u>Acts</u> - how the character ACTS ; what actions they take.
L	<u>Looks</u> - what the character LOOKS like and how they dress.

3rd person Objective- There are zero thoughts or feelings revealed to the reader.

3rd person Limited Point of View- The narrator can tell us the thoughts and feelings of **ONLY ONE** character.

3rd person Omniscient Point of View- The narrator can tell us the thoughts and feelings of **MORE THAN ONE** character. In fact, they can tell us the thoughts or feelings of **ALL** characters!