

Point of View

LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF LITERATURE
Unit 4, Part 2, Grade 10

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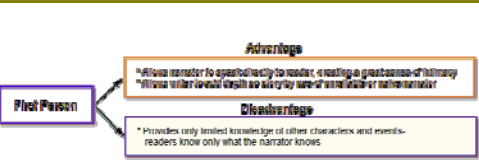
Introducing Point of View

Point of view refers to the vantage point from which a story is told.

- Retell a personal experience using two different points of view:
 - » one in which you speak as a participant
 - » another in which you speak as an outside observer telling the story.
- What are the differences between the two?

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Presenting First-Person Point of View




Read a first-person narrative aloud in order to hear the narrator's speaking voice.

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Your Turn


- Read the excerpt at the right of page 623.
- How does this narrative point of view affect your feeling of suspense?



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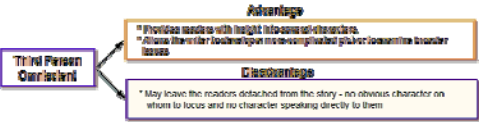
Presenting Third-Person Point of View

The third-person point of view offers the voice of a nonparticipant telling the story and can provide great awareness than the limited view of a first-person narrator.



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Presenting Third-Person Omniscient Point of View




- Third-person omniscient point of view was a convention widely used by 19th-century writers, but it is almost never used by fiction writers today.
- To provide insight into all characters' minds is psychologically implausible for anyone.

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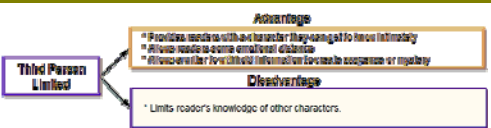
Your Turn

- Read the passage at the top right of page 624.
- Why do you think Guy de Maupassant used an omniscient point of view rather than the point of view of one of the two friends?



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Presenting Third-Person Limited Point of View




A reasonable metaphor for third-person limited point of view might be that of a camera sitting on the shoulder of the viewpoint character, seeing the world as he or she sees it, with the exception that the camera also has access to his or her interior thoughts and feelings.

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Your Turn

- From whose vantage point is the passage on the bottom right of page 624 told?
- How does this help you understand the conflict?



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