

Change the Point of View: First Person to Third Person

In literature the point of view is the story from one person's perspective. A trick is to ask, "Who is talking?" in other words, who is the narrator? If the author is using a first person voice, the narrator is a main character and uses I or me. The story is from the narrator's point of view and based on only their understanding.

In third person narrations, the narrator is not a main character and instead uses he, she ,it or they when referring to others. The words I and me are used only in dialogue.

The passage below is from *Harriet's Daughter* by Marlene Nourbese Philip. It is a story about a young girl, Margaret, living in Canada who is determined to help her friend get back to her grandmother in the Caribbean.

The passage is a first person narration, from Margaret's point of view. Rewrite the passage changing it to a third person narration. Use your own words.

I was spending a lot of time thinking of Harriet Tubman and her life. I also thought about Harriet Blewchamp and how she managed to escape from a concentration camp – maybe she had a Harriet Tubman to help her. I made up secret codes that I, as Harriet, could pass to slaves who were trying to escape; with these codes, I could tell them when and where I was going to meet the slaves who wanted to run away. The codes were real simple. The brown cow needs milking meant that it wasn't safe for them and me to get together. The hens not laying today; the old hound dog tired, he not hunting tonight – all these meant danger, or delay. Jack rabbit running scared; mocking bird going call tonight; crescent moon and full moon never shine together – these meant we could meet and I would lead them to freedom. If I was caught, I knew I was as good as dead, but I was going to get those slaves to freedom if it killed me.

Responses will vary. Provide additional ruled paper where necessary.

