

Point of View: Who is Telling the Story?

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**? The narrator is the person who is telling the story. There are two main types of narrators: first person and third person.

If the author is using first person narration, the narrator is a main character and uses *I* or *me* when speaking.

In third person narration the narrator uses *he, she, it* or *they*. The words *I* and *me* are used only in dialogue.

Below are passages from books. Read them and write what type of narration is being used: first person or third person. Then briefly explain your reasons.

Explanations will vary, examples given.

1) There were six young colts in the meadow besides me. They were older than I was; some were nearly as large as grown-up horses. I used to run with them, and had great fun; we used to gallop all together round and round the field...

Black Beauty, Anna Sewell

First person
.....
because the
.....
narrator uses
.....
"I" when speaking
.....

2) Finally an idea came to him. He would return and see how his own team-mates were making out. To his astonishment, they had disappeared. Again he wandered about through the great camp, looking for them, and again he returned. Were they in the tent?

The Call of The Wild, Jack London

Third person
.....
because the
.....
narrator uses "he,"
.....
and "his."
.....

3) The new boy went off brushing the dust from his clothes, sobbing, snuffling, and occasionally looking back and shaking his head and threatening what he would do to Tom the "next time he caught him out."

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain

Third person
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4) As my friends and I ate and gossiped, she often stood by quietly, engaged in some household chore, not hiding the fact that she was taking in every word.

Becoming, Michelle Obama

First person
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.....
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5) I and my chimney, two grey-headed old smokers, reside in the country. We are, I may say, old settlers here; particularly my old chimney, which settles more and more every day.

I and My Chimney, Herman Melville

First person
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