

Change the Point of View: Third Person to First 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 *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain. It is a story about a young boy, Tom, and his many daring escapades growing up along the Mississippi River.

The passage is written in third person narration. Rewrite the passage from Tom's point of view . Use your own words.

Tom appeared on the sidewalk with a bucket of whitewash and a long-handled brush. He surveyed the fence, and all gladness left him and a deep melancholy settled down upon his spirit. Thirty yards of board fence nine feet high. Life to him seemed hollow, and existence but a burden. Sighing, he dipped his brush and passed it along the topmost plank; repeated the operation; did it again; compared the insignificant whitewashed streak with the far-reaching continent of unwhitewashed fence, and sat down on a tree-box discouraged. Jim came skipping out at the gate with a tin pail, and singing Buffalo Gals. Bringing water from the town pump had always been hateful work in Tom's eyes, before, but now it did not strike him so. He remembered that there was company at the pump.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.