

Table of Contents

Part I

| | |
|---|----|
| Understanding Literary Elements | 4 |
| Characters and Dialogue | 5 |
| Plot and Conflict | 7 |
| Point of View | 8 |
| Tone and Theme | 9 |
| Climax and Flashback | 10 |

Part II

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Practice Exercises | 12 |
|------------------------------|----|

Point of View

Who is telling the story? Every story is told from a **point of view**. Sometimes a character tells the story in his or her own words. That is called **first-person point of view**. The narrator uses the first-person pronouns *I* and *we*. Other stories are told from a **third-person point of view**. Then the narrator uses third-person pronouns, such as *he*, *she*, and *they*. The story may be told from the point of view of one character (called **third-person limited**). It may reveal the thoughts of several characters, or all of them (**third-person omniscient**). Or it may be told from the point of view of a narrator outside the story, describing only what can be seen and heard (**third-person objective**).

Read the passage. Then answer the question that follows.

“Oh, gross!” Sofia said. “I can stand spiders if they’re outdoors, but *worms*—!”

“Worms are okay,” Haley said. “When my Uncle Jack takes me fishing, he makes me bait my own hook.” It was Sofia who had phoned that morning, asking if Haley wanted to go to the movies. Sofia’s dad had dropped them at the mall. “It actually wasn’t as bad as I thought it would be—cleaning out the gutter. It’s easier than cleaning the oven—especially after I’ve done the cooking!”

Haley screwed up her face to show her distaste. She glanced at her expression in the window of the shoe store they were passing. She liked the way her narrow face looked surrounded by thick dark curls. She could almost believe it now when her mother told her she was pretty. She went on before Sofia could notice her looking at herself.

“How much of your sentence do you still have to serve?” Sofia asked

“Oh, I don’t know. About ten, eleven hours.” She knew almost to the second; it was ten hours, 47 minutes. She felt the phone in her pocket, pressing against her leg. She would have to remember to turn it off before the movie started. “I’d never tell my mom, but you know, there are some chores I actually *like* to do, like cooking. Or anything outdoors. Like last weekend, when I had to prune the cherry tree out front. That was fun, and I did a good job.”

“I mainly just have to babysit my little sister,” Sofia said. “I wish my parents would let *me* have a cell phone.”

What is the point of view of the story?

- A first person
- B third-person limited
- C third-person objective
- D third-person omniscient

This is a third-person narrative. The narrator does not use the pronoun *I*. But is the point of view a character’s or the narrator’s? The reader is told what Haley sees and thinks. Her mother and Sofia are revealed only through their dialogue and Haley’s thoughts. This is the *third-person limited* point of view. So choice B is correct.

Point of View

- 2 The story is told from—
- A a first-person point of view
 - B Jonas’s point of view (third-person limited)
 - C a narrator’s point of view (third-person objective)
 - D all characters’ points of view (third-person omniscient)

- 3 Which paragraph is *partly* narrated in flashback?
- A paragraph 3
 - B paragraph 8
 - C paragraph 9
 - D paragraph 10

4 The setting (place and time) of the story is _____

- 5 Which of these details helps establish the setting?
- A Jonas uses matches to light a lamp.
 - B People go in all directions to escape the fire.
 - C Jonas’s father is a book dealer and publisher.
 - D Jonas can see the fire burning from his window.

- 6 Which word *best* describes Jonas’s father in the story?
- A kind
 - B greedy
 - C frightening
 - D courageous

7 What clues in the story help you answer question 6?

Point of View

PAGE 8

Understanding
Literary
Elements

PAGE 4

13 The policeman twirled his club and took a step or two.

14 “I’ll be on my way. Hope your friend comes around all right. Going to call time on him sharp?”

15 “I should say not!” said the other. “I’ll give him half an hour at least. If Jimmy is alive on earth he’ll be here by that time. So long, officer.”

16 “Goodnight, sir,” said the policeman, passing on along his beat.

1 What is the point of view of the story?

A first person

B third-person limited

C third-person objective

D third-person omniscient

2 Paragraph 1 of the story *mainly* introduces the—

A theme

B setting

C conflict

D characters

3 The author establishes the tone of the story *mainly* through the—

A description of the street

B dialogue of the policeman

C description of the policeman

D dialogue of the man with the cigar

4 The story lets you know that the man with the cigar is rich and successful *mainly* through—

A what he does

B what he says

C how the narrator describes him

D what other characters say about him

After Twenty Years—Part 2

1 There was now a fine, cold drizzle falling, and the wind had risen from its uncertain puffs into a steady blow. The few foot passengers in the neighborhood hurried dismally and silently along with coat collars turned high and hands in pockets. And in the door of the hardware store, the man who had come a thousand miles to meet an uncertain appointment with the friend of his youth, smoked his cigar and waited.

2 About 20 minutes he waited, and then a tall man in a long overcoat, with collar turned up to his ears, hurried across from the opposite side of the street.

3 “Is that you, Bob?” he asked, doubtfully.

4 “Is that you, Jimmy Wells?” cried the man in the door.

5 “Bless my heart!” exclaimed the new arrival, grasping both the other’s hands with his own. “It’s Bob, sure as fate. I was certain I’d find you here if you were still alive. Well, well, well!—20 years is a long time. How has the West treated you, old man?”

6 “Bully; it has given me everything I asked it for. You’ve changed lots, Jimmy. I never thought you were so tall by two or three inches.”