

**Change
the Point
of View:
First
Person
and Third
Person**

Everyone has a point of view, or a way of looking at things. In fiction, the narrator is the one who tells the story. There are two main types of narrators: first person and third person.

In first person narrations, the narrator is usually a main character and uses *I* and *me*. The reader learns a great deal about the narrator by reading the narrator's thoughts and feelings. However, the narrator usually doesn't know any other character's thoughts or feelings, so the reader doesn't either.

In third person narrations, the narrator is not a main character and uses *she*, *he*, *they* or *it*. The words *I* and *me* are used only in dialog. The reader may learn a little about the narrator, but learns much more about the other characters.

Below is a passage from *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson. It is a story about Jim Hawkins, a boy in the 1700s. Jim has found part of a treasure map. He with some men from his town, have hired a ship to find the treasure. Some of the sailors on the ship, like Long John Silver, may be dangerous.

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

Now, just after sundown, when all my work was over and I was on my way to my berth, it occurred to me that I should like an apple. I ran on deck. The watch was all forward looking out for the island. The man at the helm was watching the luff of the sail and whistling away gently to himself, and that was the only sound excepting the swish of the sea against the bows and around the sides of the ship.

In I got bodily into the apple barrel, and found there was scarce an apple left; but, sitting down there in the dark, what with the sound of the waters and the rocking movement of the ship, I had either fallen asleep, or was on the point of doing so, when a heavy man sat down with rather a clash close by. The barrel shook as he leaned his shoulders against it, and I was just about to jump up when the man began to speak. It was Silver's voice, and, before I had heard a dozen words, I would not have shown myself for all the world, but lay there, trembling and listening, in the extreme of fear and curiosity; for from these dozen words I understood that the lives of all the honest men aboard depended upon me alone.

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Answers: Student's choice
