

## Point of View: Who Is Telling the Story?

The narrator tells what happens in a story. Sometimes it is a character in the story, or sometimes it is someone else who does not take part in 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*.

In third person narrations, the narrator is not a main character and uses *she*, *he*, *they* or *it*. The words *I* and *me* are only used in conversations.

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

1. My father had a small estate in Nottinghamshire: I was the third of five sons. He sent me to Emanuel College in Cambridge at fourteen years old, where I resided three years, and applied myself close to my studies...

*(Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift)*

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2. Mr. Sherlock Holmes, who was usually very late in the mornings, save upon those not infrequent occasions when he was up all night, was seated at the breakfast table. I stood upon the hearth-rug and picked up the stick which our visitor had left behind him the night before.

*(The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)*

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3. Mary asked no more questions but waited in the darkness of her corner, keeping her eyes on the window. The carriage lamps cast rays of light a little distance ahead of them and she caught glimpses of the things they passed.

*(The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett)*

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4. Phileas Fogg was seated squarely in his armchair, his feet close together like those of a grenadier on parade, his hands resting on his knees, his body straight, his head erect; he was steadily watching a complicated clock which indicated the hours, the minutes, the seconds, the days, the months, and the years.

*(Around the World in Eighty Days by Jules Verne)*

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5. At first I hated the school, but by and by I got so I could stand it. Whenever I got uncommon tired I played hookey, and the hiding I got next day done me good and cheered me up. So the longer I went to school the easier it got to be.

*(The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain)*

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6. Poor Jo would gladly have gone under the table, as one thing after another was tasted and left; while Amy giggled, Meg looked distressed, Miss Crocker pursed up her lips, and Laurie talked and laughed with all his might, to give a cheerful tone to the festive scene.

*(Little Women by Louisa May Alcott)*

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

**Student's reasons will vary, but correct answers should reference pronoun usage.**

1. My father had a small estate in Nottinghamshire: I was the third of five sons. He sent me to Emanuel College in Cambridge at fourteen years old, where I resided three years, and applied myself close to my studies...

*(Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift)*

**first person**

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*(The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)*

**first person**

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*(The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett)*

**third person**

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*(Around the World in Eighty Days by Jules Verne)*

**third person**

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**first person**

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**third person**

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