

# Author's Point of View

When writing, authors must decide from what point of view they want to express their ideas. There are three different choices – first person, second person, and a variety of third person point of views. The type of pronouns and the genre can be a clue when identifying the author's point of view.

FIRST PERSON	
Definition	Clues
A character within the story recounts/retells his or her own experiences or impressions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lets the reader know only what that character knows.</li><li>• Uses the pronouns: <i>I, me, my, mine, we, our, ours.</i></li></ul>

SECOND PERSON	
Definition	Clues
The story or the piece of writing is from the perspective of "you."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uncommon form of writing.</li><li>• Used mainly with instruction manuals, recipes, giving directions, and poetry.</li><li>• Uses the pronouns: <i>you, yours.</i></li></ul>

\* Look on the next page for information on the different "Third Person Point of View"

## THIRD PERSON OBJECTIVE

Definition	Clues
<p>The narrator remains a detached <u>observer</u>, telling only the stories action and dialogue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lets the reader know only what is seen and heard, not what characters think or feel.</li><li>• Uses the pronouns: <i>he, she, it, they</i></li></ul>

## THIRD PERSON LIMITED OMNISCIENT

Definition	Clues
<p>The narrator tells the story from the viewpoint of <u>one</u> character in the story.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lets the reader know what one character thinks, sees, knows, hears, and feels.</li><li>• Uses the pronouns: <i>he, she, it, they</i></li></ul>

## THIRD PERSON OMNISCIENT

Definition	Clues
<p>The narrator has unlimited knowledge and can describe <u>every</u> character's thoughts and interpret their behaviors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lets the reader know unlimited information about the characters.</li><li>• Uses the pronouns: <i>he, she, it, they</i></li></ul>