Point of View: Third Person

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

**first-person point of view:** when the narrator is a character in the story and uses pronoun, such as I, and we

**third-person point of view:** when the narrator is not a character in the story; uses pronouns, such as he and she

**third-person limited point of view:** when the narrator is not a character in the story; uses pronouns, such as he, she, his, and her; narrator tells only what one character thinks, feels, and observes

**third-person omniscient point of view:** when the narrator is not a character in the story; uses pronouns, such as he, she, his, and her; narrator can tell the thoughts, feelings, motives, and experiences of all the characters in the story

HERE’S HOW

**Step 1: Identify the narrator and the point of view.** Ask: Who is telling the story?

- **First Person:** The narrator participates in the action of the story and uses pronouns, such as I, and we.
- **Third Person:** The narrator is an outside observer and uses pronouns, such as he and she.

**Step 2: For third person, identify third-person omniscient or third-person limited.**

- **Omniscient:** The narrator knows the thoughts and feelings of all the characters in the story.
- **Limited:** The narrator knows the thoughts and feelings only of one character in the story.

**Step 3: Analyze the point of view.** Ask: How does the point of view affect the story? How does the narrator’s perspective affect the way you, the reader, interpret the events and characters? How would the story be different if it were told from another point of view?

**EXAMPLE: THIRD-PERSON POINT OF VIEW**

Find the clues that help you identify the point of view in the passage:

When he was seven, Jeremy’s mother decided he should learn to play golf. She thought it was a good way to “build character.” Jeremy thought it was the dullest sport on the planet.

Note the use of he and she. The narrator knows the thoughts and feelings of both Jeremy and Jeremy’s mother.