

Standards Focus: Narrator and Point of View

Chapters 12-15

The **narrator** is the person who relates the events of a story to a reader or audience. **Point of view** is the perspective from which a story is told. The point of view from which a story is told determines how the reader interprets the story and understands the characters. There are three main types of point of view:

- **First Person:** narrator is a character in the story; uses the first person “I” to tell the story
- **Third Person Limited:** narrator does not participate in the action of the story; relates the thoughts and feelings of only one character
- **Third Person Omniscient:** narrator does not participate in the action of the story; relates the thoughts and feelings of all the characters

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is told from the first person point of view. The story is told by Huck Finn, and he uses the first person pronouns “I”, “me” and “my.”

Directions: Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

1. Do you think the novel would be as effective or entertaining if another narrator told the story, rather than Huck Finn from the first person point of view? Explain your answer.

2. What if Tom Sawyer was telling the story? Knowing Tom’s character and tendency to tell white lies and exaggerate, how would the story be different?

3. How would the story be different if Miss Watson told the story? What details might be added? What might be left out?

4. Using your literature textbook, find another story or novel that has been written in first person point of view. How would that story be different if told by a different character or an outside observer?

5. On a separate piece of paper, rewrite the first paragraph of Chapters 12 and 15, changing the first person point of view into the third person omniscient point of view.