

Point of View

The point of view is the perspective from which the action of a novel is presented, whether the action is presented by one character or from different vantage points over the course of the novel.

These are common narrative perspectives:

- **The omniscient narrator** is a third-person narrator who sees, like God, into each character's mind and understands all the action going on.
- **The limited omniscient narrator** is a third-person narrator who generally reports only what one character (often the protagonist) sees and who only reports the thoughts of that one privileged character.
- **The objective, or camera-eye, narrator** is a third-person narrator who only reports what would be visible to a camera. The objective narrator does not know what the character is thinking unless the character speaks of it.
- **The first-person narrator**, who is a major or minor character in the story, tells the tale from his or her point of view. When the first person narrator is insane, a liar, very young, or for some reason not entirely credible, the narrator is **unreliable**. Some first-person narratives include multiple narrators.
- **The stream of consciousness technique** is like first-person narration, but instead of the character telling the story, the author places the reader inside the main character's head and makes the reader privy to all of the character's thoughts as they scroll through his or her consciousness.