

Name _____

Date _____

Types of Point of View

In a work of fiction, the narrator is the voice that tells the story. The author's choice of narrator is called the point of view. Authors deliberately choose a point of view in order to give readers a certain perspective on the story. There are **three types** of point of view:

- **First Person:** Reader sees events and characters through narrator's eyes.
- **Third—Person Limited:** Reader sees events and characters through one character's eyes.
- **Third-Person Omniscient (All—Knowing):** Reader is shown different characters' thoughts and feelings.

Read the following story excerpts and answer the questions.

Excerpt A:

I clutched my backpack straps tightly as I walked into the new school. My heart pounded so loudly I was sure everyone could hear it. The hallway seemed endless, filled with unfamiliar faces that all turned to stare at me. "Just breathe," I whispered to myself. "You can do this." I spotted the office door and hurried toward it, hoping the secretary might be friendly.

Excerpt B:

Emma clutched her backpack straps tightly as she walked into the new school. Her heart pounded as she entered the unfamiliar hallway. She felt like everyone was staring at her,

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judging the new girl. "Just breathe," she whispered to herself. "You can do this." When Emma spotted the office door, she hurried toward it, hoping the secretary might be friendly.

Excerpt C:

We all noticed the new girl immediately. She clutched her backpack like it might save her from drowning in our sea of curious stares. Our hallway probably seemed endless to her. We watched as she whispered something to herself and then made a beeline for the office. Most of us remembered what it felt like to be new, but we just continued our conversations, knowing Mrs. Peterson in the office would make her feel welcome.

1. What point of view is used in each excerpt, and how do you know?

2. How does the point of view affect what information the reader receives in each excerpt?

3. Which point of view gives the reader the most direct access to the main character's thoughts and feelings?

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Types of Point of View – Answer Key

1. What point of view is used in each excerpt, and how do you know?

Excerpt A uses first-person point of view ("I," "my"). Excerpt B uses third-person limited point of view ("she," "her"). Excerpt C uses first-person plural point of view ("we," "our").

2. How does the point of view affect what information the reader receives in each excerpt?

In Excerpt A, we only know the narrator's thoughts. In Excerpt B, we follow Emma through an outside narrator. In Excerpt C, we see the new girl from the perspective of the other students.

3. Which point of view gives the reader the most direct access to the main character's thoughts and feelings?

First-person point of view (Excerpt A) gives the most direct access to the main character's thoughts and feelings.