



Elements of Short Fiction: Point of View

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Point of View:

A story's point of view refers to the source of the narrative voice. It is the perspective the author uses to tell the story.

1st person P.O.V.-- “I went to the store and saw Bill with Emma.”

2nd person P.O.V.-- “You went to the store and saw Bill with Emma.”

3rd person P.O.V.-- “He/she went to the store and saw Bill with Emma.”

3rd person P.O.V. variations:

3rd person objective:

The narrator cannot see into any of the character's minds—he/she narrates without any insights into how or why other characters feel or think.

3rd person limited:

The narrator can see into only one or two of the characters' minds.

3rd person omniscient:

An all-knowing narrator, also called “the voice of God,” who can see into all of the characters' minds.

Part Two:

“Hills Like White Elephants” by Ernest Hemingway

1. How does the setting contribute to the theme?
2. How does the fact that this is predominantly dialogue affect the story?
How does it impact the plot? The characterization?
3. Explain the relevance: “Isn’t that all we do? Look at things and try new drinks?”
4. Explain: “It’s really not anything. It’s just to let the air in.”
5. How does the P.O.V. impact the narrative? How would this feel different if told from “the girl’s” perspective? Or from “the American’s” perspective?

Today’s Activity:

- Review questions
- Discuss in groups
- Class discussion
- In-class journal entry #3

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