



Elements of Fiction II

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Narrator:

the teller of the story. The narrator affects our understanding of the story by filtering what is told through his or her own perspective (or lack thereof).

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.

Types of Characters in Fiction:

Major or Central characters are vital to the development and resolution of the conflict (plot and resolution revolves around these characters).

Minor Characters complement the major characters and help move the plot forward.

Stock characters are **conventional or stereotypical** through *repeated use* in particular types of stories.

A **Dynamic** character **changes over time**, usually as a result of the conflict or crisis.

A **Static** character is someone who **does not change over time**; his or her personality does not transform or evolve.

A **Foil** is a character (usually the antagonist or an important supporting character) whose personal qualities contrast with another character (usually the protagonist). By providing this contrast, we get to know more about the other character.

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