

Omniscient Narrator

Definition:

- An *omniscient narrator* is the narrator of a piece of literature that looks in on a situation from the outside.
 - The narrator has no emotional investment in the story and remains objective throughout.
 - The narrator has access to every character's emotions, thoughts, and actions.
 - The narrator can switch from studying one character to another very quickly.
 - Uses third person pronouns (he, she, they, etc.).
 - The goal is to present the story as objectively as possible and to allow the audience to form their own judgment about the characters and situation.

Examples:

- *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien uses an omniscient narrator. The speaker jumps around from character to character quickly and observes several different groups.
- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen uses an all-knowing narrator that presents all of the facts and situations objectively.

Helpful Links:

- http://narrative.georgetown.edu/wiki/index.php/Omniscient_narrator
- <http://fictionwriting.about.com/od/glossary/g/omniscient.htm>