

Point of View

Definition-

- In literature, point of view is the mode of narration that an author employs to let the readers hear and see what takes place in a story or poem.

Types of Point of View-

- Third Person Point of View- uses pronouns like “he”, “she”, “it”, “they” or a name
 - The narrator does not participate in the action of the story as one of the characters, but lets us know exactly how the characters feel.
 - **Objective**- The narrator will not explicitly reveal character’s thoughts and/or motivations in narration, but a reader can infer the feelings from the dialogue.
 - **Omniscient**- The narrator will reveal all of the character’s feelings and thoughts.
 - **Limited**- The narrator reveals the thoughts and feelings of one character through explicit narration.
- Second Person uses the pronoun “you”.
 - Second person point of view draws the reader into the story, almost making the reader a participant in the action.
- First Person Point of View- uses the pronouns “I” and “we”
 - The narrator does participate in the action of the story, and shows how the characters feel. However, no narrator has complete self-knowledge or complete knowledge of anything, and the reader’s role is to go beyond what the narrator says.

Example-

William Wordsworth uses the first person point of view to express his feelings about the scene of daffodils in his famous poem “Daffodils”.

“I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to **me** had brought.”

The lines from “Bright Lights, Big City” by Jay McInemey:

“**You** are not the kind of guy who would be at a place like this at this time of the morning. But here **you** are, and **you** cannot say that the terrain is entirely unfamiliar, although the details are fuzzy.”

The second person point of view speaks to the reader using the word “you”.

More examples:

<http://thebluestockings.com/2010/09/literature-101-point-of-view-narrator/>