



The Voice Within

Suggested time: 2.5 Hours

What's important in this lesson:

- Understanding and identifying different kinds of points of view
- Identifying the point of view in a short story
- Demonstrating how to write a letter using the narrator's voice and point of view

Complete these steps:

1. Complete the diagnostic worksheet on creating a definition for narrative and point of view.
2. Using the Glossary (definition) sheet, identify different kinds of points of view.
3. Read a short story, focusing on point of view.
4. Answer questions based on the short story.
5. Write a friendly letter using the voice and point of view of the narrator. Use the sample letter as a guide to format.

Hand-in the following to your teacher:

1. Narrative definition
2. Point of View identification questions
3. Short story question sheet
4. Friendly letter

Questions for the teacher:



Narrative – What is it?

“We dream in narrative, daydream in narrative, remember, anticipate, hope, despair, believe, doubt, plan, revise, criticize, construct, gossip, learn, hate, love by narrative.”

--Barbara Hardy

After thinking about what Barbara Hardy is saying about narrative, write your own definition on the lines below of what you think narrative might mean. You may consult a dictionary, but please explain the word's meaning in your own words.



Narrative and Point of View

Definitions:

Narrator: The narrator is the voice/person telling a story. The narrator keeps the story moving and provides detail between dialogue. The narrator may speak from different points of view.

Point of View: There are different kinds of points of view. Point of view determines what kinds of information are shared with the reader. It can also influence how a reader feels about characters and events in a story.

First Person: A character from the story narrates using the pronoun *I*.

Second Person: The reader is placed in the story with the use of the pronoun *you*.

Limited Third Person: The narrator is outside the story and tells the story through the eyes of only one character. Limited third person uses the pronouns *she* and *he*.

All-knowing (Omniscient) Third Person: The narrator tells the story and accounts for the feelings, motives and actions of all the characters. The narrator uses the pronouns *she* and *he*.

Questions:

In the lines below, read the passages and identify the points of view as First Person, Second Person or Omniscient Third Person.

1. Linda is the oldest of the three sisters and is the envy of the other two. They feel she is often given most of their mother's attention and love.

2. I always believed that my sister Linda was my mother's favourite. She was always given the most attention. She usually gets what she wants.

3. Do you know what it feels like to have an older sister who is the one who gets all the attention? If you have a sibling, you have probably felt jealous at one time or another.



Short Story Question Sheet

1. From what point of view is the story told?
2. Do you sympathize with the narrator? Why/why not?
3. The narrator offers a criticism of him/herself. What is that criticism?
4. What kinds of experiences stand out as important in the narrator's past?
5. On the following page, write a friendly letter in the *voice* and *point of view* of the narrator. It should be addressed to someone from the story and be approximately 7-10 sentences. Consult the format for a friendly letter to guide you.



Friendly Letter



Sample Friendly Letter

1245 18th Avenue West,
Sherbrooke, Quebec
L9F 2I4

June 1, 2005

Dear Benny,

Hey buddy! I just wanted to say thanks so much for hosting my going away party last weekend. That was just great. I was so surprised you could get everyone together in such short notice.

I can't believe how many people have changed. Can you believe that Josh has four kids? That must be a lot of work. I'm so happy to see Jenny and Terry back together. That really makes me happy.

I am going to miss everyone but going away overseas to work is such a great opportunity. I will try and keep in touch as much as I can. Keep a lookout for postcards.

Thanks again.

Love and hugs

Melinda

P.S. Did I ever mention that you make a great guacamole?