



Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

What's the Point?

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Who says? *I say, he says, she says, we say.* . . . A story can change a lot depending on who's telling it. Look at these three different points of view and what they tell the reader.

The "I"s have it

Using "I" in a story is called the **first-person point of view**. This is often used when relating a true, personal tale. First-person can also be used in fiction to take on the voice of the main character.

Example: "My heart pounded like a mallet. I could feel sweat trickle down my temples as I walked into the Valentine's Day dance. I saw Veronica, the girl of my dreams, standing in the corner without a partner."

Your Turn Use the spaces below to write two sentences using a first-person point of view to describe a recent experience.

He said, she said

Telling a story with "he" or "she" is a **third-person point of view**. It adds distance between the narrator and the characters. When the narrator knows the thoughts of all the characters, the point of view is called **third-person omniscient** (awm-NIH-shunt).

Example: "Despite his anxiety, Charley moved smoothly as he danced with Veronica. He didn't notice the bored look in her eyes or the way she glanced over her shoulder at the other students in the room."

Your Turn Rewrite the above scene in first-person, from Charley's point of view.

Within limits

Another kind of third-person point of view is called **limited omniscient**. In this case, the narrator uses "he" or "she," but knows the thoughts of only the main character.

Example: "Charley knew that Veronica wasn't the only girl in school. She wasn't the only girl at the dance. Still, he had never felt so alone as he waited for his dad to come pick him up. Why couldn't Charley tell Veronica how he felt?"

Your Turn Write a sentence about Charley, this time using the limited omniscient point of view.

Write Now!

A HAPPY ENDING FOR CHARLEY
Choose one of the points of view described above, and write a paragraph about what happens to Charley after the dance. This is your chance to make things turn out well for him!
