

Point of View



An author thinks about a story and its characters before writing. In literary text, characters are very important. Who will be in the story? Who is the main character? Who, in the story, will narrate (tell) the story?

First Person

I leaned back in my seat and put **my** hands behind **my** neck. **I** saw Marika raising her hand. She's always ready to answer every question. She must really want to impress the teachers. Behind me, Sam looked at a globe.

Choose one character. Write the story as if you are that character. Pretend that you know nothing more about the other characters in the story than you know about other people around you in the real world. You can see what they do and they may have told you their feelings – or you may have guessed why they behave as they do. Use pronouns like **I, me, and my.**

Third Person, Limited

Nate leaned back in **his** seat and put **his** hands behind **his** neck. **He** saw Marika raising her hand. **He** knew that she was always answering every question and he felt she must really want to impress the teachers. Behind him, Sam looked at a globe.

Choose one character but don't become the character. You, the author, are not part of the story. Tell about what that character sees, feels, thinks, and/or does. Pretend to know nothing more about the other characters than the chosen character could know. Use pronouns like **he, him, his** or **she, her, hers.**

Third Person, Omniscient

Nate leaned back in **his** seat and put **his** hands behind **his** neck. **He** saw Marika raising **her** hand. Nate didn't know that she always had her hand up because her parents keep pressuring her to get straight "A"s. **She** feels **she** must work to stand out in class for them. Behind Nate, Sam looked at a globe.

Choose any or all of the characters but do not become any of them. As the author, you know everything that has or will happen including what everyone will be thinking and feeling and how they will behave. Tell your readers everything you think they should know about each character. Use **he/she, him/her, his/hers.**