

Narrator Clues

Compare what first-person and third-person narrators can tell you.

4R6 "In literary texts, compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated, including the difference between first- and third-person narrations. (RL) In informational texts..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that show a narrator is part of the story, such as *I* or *my*. Circle names and pronouns that show a third-person narrator, then number details that tell a character's thought or feeling.

Three Rainy-Day Stories

- ① I hurried to the library with a book under my arm. Rain tapped the windows, and I worried that the book would be late. Ms. Chen smiled when I placed it on the desk. I felt relieved, but I did not know why she glanced at the clock and sighed after I left.
- ② Jada carried her science fair poster through the rainy schoolyard. She worried that the ink might run. At the gym door, Mr. Ortiz held an umbrella over the poster. Jada thanked him and hurried inside. Mr. Ortiz watched her go, remembering the day he had ruined his own poster in fourth grade many years ago.
- ③ On another afternoon, Malik found a blue backpack beside the playground fence. He picked it up, read the name tag, and carried it to the office. The office aide called the owner. Malik waited by the window until the owner came for the bag. The story tells what Malik did, but it does not tell what he thought or felt.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What point of view is paragraph 1 told from? Give two words that prove your answer.

2 Both paragraphs 2 and 3 use third-person narration. What does the narrator in paragraph 2 know that the narrator in paragraph 3 does not reveal?

3 Compare paragraph 1 with paragraph 2. How is the narrator's knowledge about Ms. Chen different from the narrator's knowledge about Mr. Ortiz?

4 What detail shows that paragraph 3 is told in third person rather than first person?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a simple event that is different from the passage. Write two sentences about it in first person, then write the same event in two sentences in third person. Include a thought or feeling in each version.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words that show a narrator is part of the story, such as *I* or *my*. Circle names and pronouns that show a third-person narrator, then number details that tell a character's thought or feeling. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What point of view is paragraph 1 told from? Give two words that prove your answer.	First person. The narrator uses words such as "I" and "my."
2	Both paragraphs 2 and 3 use third-person narration. What does the narrator in paragraph 2 know that the narrator in paragraph 3 does not reveal?	The paragraph 2 narrator knows Jada worries about the ink and knows Mr. Ortiz remembers ruining his own poster. The paragraph 3 narrator does not reveal Malik's thoughts or feelings.
3	Compare paragraph 1 with paragraph 2. How is the narrator's knowledge about Ms. Chen different from the narrator's knowledge about Mr. Ortiz?	The paragraph 1 narrator does not know why Ms. Chen looks at the clock and sighs. The paragraph 2 narrator knows that Mr. Ortiz remembers ruining a poster when he was in fourth grade.
4	What detail shows that paragraph 3 is told in third person rather than first person?	It calls the character "Malik" and uses "he," instead of using "I" for the narrator.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First person: I dropped my lunch tray in the cafeteria, and I wished nobody had seen it. My friend brought me napkins, so I stopped feeling embarrassed. Third person: Elena dropped her lunch tray in the cafeteria, and she wished nobody had seen it. Her friend brought her napkins, so Elena stopped feeling embarrassed.

Accept equivalent point-of-view evidence from the passage. For the open task, check that the student describes the same event in both versions and uses first-person pronouns in one version and third-person names or pronouns in the other.