

Boat Story Lenses

Compare first-person and third-person narration.

5.RL.3.B "Compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated, including the difference between first-and third-person narratives."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In A, underline names or pronouns that show who narrates. In B, circle names or pronouns referring to characters in the narration. Mark outside quotation marks; dialogue alone does not establish point of view.

Read and Use the Texts

Story A: Maya's rescue

I launched my paper boat at the shallow edge of the creek. When it drifted toward the drain, my stomach tightened. I had spent all morning folding that blue sail. A long stick lay beside my shoe. I reached from the bank and guided the boat into still water. I laughed when the sail brushed my hand. To anyone else it was a soggy scrap; to me it was a ship rescued from disaster.

Story B: Jordan's rescue

Jordan crouched beside the creek as his paper boat drifted toward the drain. He worried that the boat would vanish before his sister saw it. "I can reach it with that branch," he said. He stayed on the bank and stretched the branch toward the sail. The first reach missed.

Story B, continued

Jordan shifted the branch and nudged the boat toward still water. When he lifted it out, he felt relieved. A corner sagged, but he decided to repair it before his sister arrived. He carried the boat home carefully, already planning a stronger fold.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Who tells A, and what point of view does it use? Give evidence from the narration.

2 What point of view tells B? Why does I in Jordan's dialogue NOT change that point of view?

3 Compare how the stories reveal feelings. Can BOTH points of view reveal a character's inner experience? Use evidence.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Compare the effects of the two story lenses.

Compare as a reader

Explain how A's voice and B's voice shape your experience of the rescue stories. Include a detail from each. Consider what you learn about each character's thoughts, priorities or plans.

Change the lens

Rewrite a brief part of B in Jordan's first-person voice. Keep its events consistent. Then explain one change you made to show that Jordan is now the narrator.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In A, underline names or pronouns that show who narrates. In B, circle names or pronouns referring to characters in the narration. Mark outside quotation marks; dialogue alone does not establish point of view. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who tells A, and what point of view does it use? Give evidence from the narration.	Maya is the character-narrator in first person. I launched and my stomach describe her own actions and feelings.
2	What point of view tells B? Why does I in Jordan's dialogue NOT change that point of view?	B has a third-person narrator outside the action, using Jordan and he in narration. I occurs in words Jordan speaks, not in the narrator's account.
3	Compare how the stories reveal feelings. Can BOTH points of view reveal a character's inner experience? Use evidence.	Yes. Maya directly narrates her tightening stomach and attachment to the boat. B's outside narrator tells that Jordan worried and later felt relieved. Third-person narration can reveal inner feelings too.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**Possible comparison**

A lets me hear Maya describe the boat as her rescued ship, so I experience its importance through her own words. B's narrator tells me Jordan wants to show his sister and plans a repair. Both reveal feelings, but one character tells her own experience while an outside narrator tells the other.

Possible rewrite and explanation

I nudged the boat toward still water. Relief washed over me when I lifted it out. I would fix that sagging corner before my sister arrived. I changed he to I and expressed the plan in Jordan's own narrative voice; I kept the rescue and repair plan.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

These are two distinct original fictional stories about similar events, not historical accounts. A's heading identifies Maya; B's third-person narrator is not identified as Jordan. First-person pronouns in quoted dialogue do not turn third-person narration into first person. For marking, accept character-referencing narration such as I/my in A and Jordan/he/his in B; it referring to the boat is not evidence about the narrator's relation to the characters. Maya's feelings are narrated, not spoken dialogue. Third-person narration can state thoughts and feelings. Accept supported reader comparisons and consistent rewrites without a fixed sentence count.