

POINT OF VIEW

By Mike Klaassen

Narrative point of view is the perspective from which a story is told. Stories may be narrated from the viewpoint of either an unidentified entity (a *persona*) or one that is identified.

1. An unidentified persona

- Examples of stories told from the point of view of an unidentified persona include folktales such as those published by the Brothers Grimm, where the narrator might begin a story with: *Once upon a time, in a kingdom far, far away . . .*
- A more recent example can be found in J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter series: *Mr. and Mrs. Dursely, of number four, Privet Drive . . .!*
- This category also includes stories narrated in the second grammatical person, where the unidentified narrator is someone other than "you," as in: You came home one day and discovered something that would change the rest of your life.

2. An identified persona may be one of two types:

- A persona who *is not* a character in the story, such as: *My name is Olaf. I'm an old man now, but let me tell you an amazing story related to me many years ago.*

- A persona who *is* also a character in the story (the vast majority of novels today are written from the viewpoint of a character, either in the first or third grammatical person).

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ⁱ Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, 1.