

8th Grade English: Reading: Module 2: Lesson 4: Section 4

Point of View

Identifying Point of View



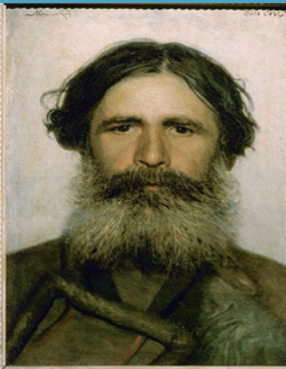
Source: 'Looking Up' at Withybush Hospital - geograph.org.uk
- 925250, ceruidwen, Wikimedia

Instructions: Read the passages that follow. For each one, identify the point of view (POV). Write your answer and what clues led you to make your choice in the boxes provided. The first answer has been completed for you. When you are done, slowly mouse over the “Sample Response” button to see a possible response for each passage.

To review, you studied the following POVs in this lesson:

1. First-person
2. Third-person omniscient
3. Third-person limited
4. Third-person objective

Alice Munro, “Boys and Girls”



Source: :Kramskoi Farmer, Ivan Kramskoi., Wikimedia

Besides carrying water I helped my father when he cut the long grass, and the lamb's quarter and flowering money-musk, that grew between the pens. He cut with the scythe and I raked into piles. Then he took a pitchfork and threw fresh-cut grass all over the top of the pens to keep the foxes cooler and shade their coats, which were browned by too much sun. My father did not talk to me unless it was about the job we were doing. In this he was quite different from my mother, who, if she was feeling cheerful, would tell me all sorts of things – the name of a dog she had had when she was a little girl, the names of boys she had gone out with later on when she was grown up, and what certain dresses of hers had looked like – she could not imagine now what had become of them. Whatever thoughts and stories my father had were private, and I was shy of him and would never ask him questions.

First-person POV: The pronoun “I” is used in the first sentence. This character sketch is told in first-person from a daughter's perspective.

Sample Response



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Identifying Point of View (continued, page 2)



Source: Dog park husky, Sarah Naegels, Wikimedia

Jack London, "To Build a Fire"

At the man's heels trotted a dog, a big native husky, the proper wolf-dog, gray-coated and without any visible or temperamental difference from its brother, the wild wolf. The animal was depressed by the tremendous cold. It knew that it was no time for travelling. Its instinct told it a truer tale than was told to the man by the man's judgment.

Sample Response



Source: Cincinnati - Spring Grove Cemetery
"Civil War Soldier - Eyes on morning light",
David Ohmer, Wikimedia

Ambrose Bierce, "Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"

He unclosed his eyes and saw again the water below him. "If I could free my hands," he thought, "I might throw off the noose and spring into the stream. By diving I could evade the bullets and, swimming vigorously, reach the bank, take to the woods and get away to home. My home, thank God, is as yet outside their lines; my wife and little ones are still beyond the invader's farthest advance."

As these thoughts, which have here to be set down in words, were flashed into the doomed man's brain rather than evolved from it the captain nodded to the sergeant. The sergeant stepped aside.

Sample Response

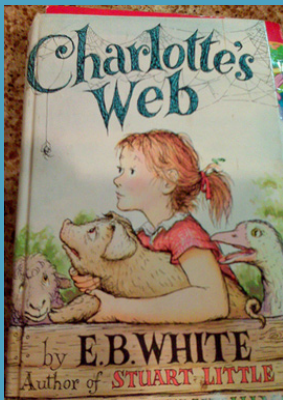


Source: Florida Water Moccasin 056, Ltshears, Wikimedia

Stephen Tobolowsky, “The Dangerous Animals Club”

I flipped over a big piece of limestone and there was a baby water moccasin. It opened its little mouth and showed its baby fangs. Billy reminded me that the babies are just as poisonous as the grown-ups. I nodded and reached down to get it. Billy yelled to me to remember to grab it behind the head. Not to worry. I knew that. Everyone in Texas knows you grab a poisonous snake behind the head.

Sample Response



Source: Charlotte's Web, alex.ragone, Flickr

E. B. White, “Charlotte’s Web”

Fern came almost every day to visit him. She found an old milking stool that had been discarded, and she placed the stool in the sheepfold next to Wilbur’s pen. Here she sat quietly during long afternoons, thinking and listening and watching Wilbur. The sheep soon got to know her and trust her. So did the geese, who lived with the sheep. All the animals trusted her, she was so quiet and friendly.

Sample Response