

Name: _____

Point of View: Who Is Telling the Story?

The narrator tells what happens in a story. Sometimes it is a character in the story, or sometimes it is someone else who does not take part in the story. There are two main types of narrators: first person and third person.

In first person narrations, the narrator is usually a main character and uses *I* and *me*.

In third person narrations, the narrator is not a main character and uses *she*, *he*, *they* or *it*. The words *I* and *me* are only used in conversations.

Below are some passages from books. Read them and write what type of narration it is: first person or third person. The briefly explain your reasons.

1. My father had a small estate in Nottinghamshire: I was the third of five sons. He sent me to Emanuel College in Cambridge at fourteen years old, where I resided three years, and applied myself close to my studies...

(*Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift)

2. Mr. Sherlock Holmes, who was usually very late in the mornings, save upon those not infrequent occasions when he was up all night, was seated at the breakfast table. I stood upon the hearth-rug and picked up the stick which our visitor had left behind him the night before.

(*The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)

3. Mary asked no more questions but waited in the darkness of her corner, keeping her eyes on the window. The carriage lamps cast rays of light a little distance ahead of them and she caught glimpses of the things they passed.

(*The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett)

4. Phileas Fogg was seated squarely in his armchair, his feet close together like those of a grenadier on parade, his hands resting on his knees, his body straight, his head erect; he was steadily watching a complicated clock which indicated the hours, the minutes, the seconds, the days, the months, and the years.

(*Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne)

5. At first I hated the school, but by and by I got so I could stand it. Whenever I got uncommon tired I played hookey, and the hiding I got next day done me good and cheered me up. So the longer I went to school the easier it got to be.

(*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain)

6. Poor Jo would gladly have gone under the table, as one thing after another was tasted and left; while Amy giggled, Meg looked distressed, Miss Crocker pursed up her lips, and Laurie talked and laughed with all his might, to give a cheerful tone to the festive scene.

(*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott)

Name: _____

**Change
the Point
of View:
Third
Person
to First
Person**

Everyone has a point of view, or a way of looking at things. In fiction, the narrator is the one who tells the story. There are two main types of narrators: first person and third person.

In first person narrations, the narrator is usually a main character and uses *I* and *me*. The reader learns a great deal about the narrator by reading the narrator's thoughts and actions.

In third person narrations, the narrator is not a main character and uses *she*, *he*, *they* or *it*. The words *I* and *me* are used only in dialog. The reader may learn a little about the narrator, but learns much more about the characters.

Below is a passage from *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London. It is a story about a dog, Buck, who is part St. Bernard and part collie. At the beginning of the book, Buck is owned by Judge Miller, who lives on a large estate in California. He is a special dog among the many on the estate. The passage mentions Toots and Ysabel, who are two small house dogs.

The passage is a third person narration. Rewrite the passage from Buck's point of view, changing it to a first person narration. Be sure to use your own words.

But Buck was neither house-dog nor kennel-dog. The whole realm was his. He plunged into the swimming tank or went hunting with the Judge's sons; he escorted Mollie and Alice, the Judge's daughters, on long twilight or early morning rambles; on wintry nights he lay at the Judge's feet before the roaring library fire; he carried the Judge's grandsons on his back, or rolled them in the grass, and guarded their footsteps through wild adventures down to the fountain in the stable yard, and even beyond, where the paddocks were, and the berry patches. Among the terriers he stalked imperiously, and Toots and Ysabel he utterly ignored, for he was king,—king over all creeping, crawling, flying things of Judge Miller's place, humans included.
