

## Teaching Notes

The goal of RL.5.6 is for students to learn to describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described. This module discusses point of view in literature, including the differences between first-person, third-person limited, and third-person omniscient points of view. Students should be able to distinguish the three types of point of view and explain how each influences the ways that the events in a story are told. The following information contains ideas that teachers can incorporate into their classroom as well as additional resources to peruse and integrate into instruction as appropriate.

### Activity

Find an excerpt from the story "The Gift of the Magi" that uses point of view to influence how events are described. For example, in this well-known tale, a poor woman with long, beautiful hair cuts her hair and sells it to a wigmaker so that she can buy her husband a nice chain for his prized pocket watch. In one scene, Della's presentation of Jim's gift—and the gift he gives her in return—are influenced by the fact that the narrator only presents Della's point of view. In this scene, point of view is used to build irony. Discuss with the students how the story would be different if told from Jim's point of view or from an omniscient one. Would the ending be as surprising either way?

- "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry:  
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/7256/7256-h/7256-h.htm>

### Practice! **Sample Response**

*The event is described from a third-person limited point of view and from the perspective of Cynthia. The narrator is not omniscient because the voice doesn't reveal what's inside the box. Instead, Lisa's reaction is described as Cynthia sees it. This shows that the third-person limited point of view creates mystery. The reader doesn't know what's inside the box because Cynthia doesn't know.*

### Additional Resources

Consider these additional resources when teaching RL.5.6:

- **"Teaching Point of View"**: This lesson plan allows teachers to use two different books to compare and contrast point of view:  
<http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/2928?ref=search>
- **"Grade 5 ELA Module 4, Unit 2, Lesson 7"**: This web page provides a PDF and a Word document for a lesson that meets the standard RL.5.6:  
<https://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-5-ela-module-4-unit-2-lesson-7>
- **"Point of View"**: This PDF is a handout for students that clearly illustrates and describes the differences between first-person and third-person point of view, distinguishing between third-person limited and third-person omniscient:  
[http://woub.org/readwritetell/pdfs/5-7.4POV\\_PointOfView.pdf](http://woub.org/readwritetell/pdfs/5-7.4POV_PointOfView.pdf)