

Grade 7 Playlist: Characters' Points of View

Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.6:

- Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.

Welcome

Point of view refers to how different characters in a story understand themselves and the world around them. Some characters have similar points of view while others have opposing points of view. Differences between characters' points of view help make the story more interesting.

Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn and practice how to:

- analyze how an author develops a character's point of view.
- compare and contrast different characters' points of view.

Review

Key Terms

- **point of view:** refers to the type of narrator telling the story or how different characters understand the world around them.
- **narrator:** the person or character telling the story.
- **first-person point of view:** a narrator who is a character in the story and uses pronouns such as *I*, *we*, and *us*.
- **third-person point of view:** a narrator who is not a character in the story and uses pronouns such as *them*, *her*, and *him*.

Watch!

Watch this video for a visual explanation of point of view:

- <https://www.opened.com/video/point-of-view/796419>

Pygmalion is about a language professor named Henry Higgins who makes a bet that he can teach a lower-class flower girl named Eliza Doolittle to act like a member of the upper class. He eventually trains her to speak with a "proper" English accent. Although this starts off as just an experiment, Higgins grows to like Eliza and tries to control the rest of her life. At the end of the play, Eliza refuses him and keeps her independence.



Major Characters in *Pygmalion*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliza Doolittle: A flower girl from a lower economic class who does not speak what is considered proper English. • Henry Higgins: A professor who studies languages and accents of people in different parts of the world. He teaches people how to speak proper English. • Colonel Pickering: A language scholar who wants to learn more about Higgins' work and persuades him to teach Eliza. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Higgins: Henry Higgins' mother • Freddy Eynsford Hill: Falls in love with Eliza, writes letters to her, and becomes a marriage option for her by the end of the play |
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Exploring the Standard

Authors develop and contrast characters' points of view in different ways. In books and short stories, authors use a narrator. A **first-person** narrator is a character in the story. The narrator uses pronouns such as *I*, *we*, and *us*. A **third-person** narrator tells the story about other people and is not a character. Third-person narrators use pronouns such as *them*, *her*, and *him*. A third-person omniscient narrator knows the thoughts of all the characters, but a third-person limited narrator knows the thoughts of only one character.

Unlike books and short stories, most plays do not have a narrator. Instead, playwrights rely heavily on dialogue to reveal characters' points of view.

Read and Listen!

Read and listen to the first page of this interactive of a story by Edgar Allen Poe. Notice how the details of the story change because of the different viewpoints each narrator has.

- http://knowingpoe.thinkport.org/writer/pov_play.asp

In many cases, characters have different points of view. To compare two characters' points of view, find scenes that include both of the characters. Pay particular attention to what the characters say to each other and how they interact. Ask these questions:

- Do the characters react differently to the same event? If so, how are their reactions different?
- Do the characters directly express disagreement? If so, where and why?

Watch!

This video explains how to analyze different points of view in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuX_Gr1_TF8



Teacher Notes: Characters' Points of View

The goal of RL.7.6 is for students to be able to explain how authors develop characters' points of view of in a story. The following information contains ideas that teachers can incorporate into their classrooms as well as additional resources to peruse and integrate into instruction as appropriate.

Activities

1. Ask students to choose a character from *Pygmalion* and draw a comic strip from that character's point of view. Then have students explain how they used details from the play to determine that character's point of view.
2. Choose one scene from *Pygmalion* and have pairs of students rewrite the scene in prose. Students should write from either a first-person, third-person limited, or third-person omniscient point of view. Then have students switch papers and analyze each other's work. Ask students to answer these questions:
 - a. What type of narrator is used?
 - b. How does the narrator develop characters' points of view?
 - c. Which characters have contrasting points of view? What details in the text support your answer?
3. Find an excerpt from a novel or short story in which characters have different points of view (such as Chapter 1 of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*). Make copies of the excerpt for students and have them highlight sentences in the text that help to contrast the characters' points of view. Then have students discuss what techniques the author used to develop the different points of view (dialogue, narration, etc.).

Additional Resources

Consider these additional resources when teaching RL.7.6:

"The Big Bad Wolf: Analyzing Point of Views in Texts": In this lesson, students read two versions of the same tale and analyze how the narrator affects each story. Students can discuss how each author develops characters' points of view.

- <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/wolf-analyzing-point-view-23.html?tab=1#tabs>

"Analyzing Point of View in *A Long Walk to Water*": In this lesson, students analyze how the author of *A Long Walk to Water* contrasts two characters' points of view.

- <https://www.engageny.org/file/30691/download/7m1.3l1.pdf>

