

## Teaching Notes

This module discusses point of view in literature, including the differences between first-person, third-person limited, and third-person omniscient points of view and why it is important to determine a literary text's point of view to understand it. Students should be able to distinguish the three types of point of view and determine which is used in a text.

### Activity

Choose excerpts from grade-appropriate stories and have students determine whether each one uses a first-person or third-person point of view. Students should record evidence to support their answers. Model the activity first for students by using the passage below from *The Wizard of Oz*. Point out that the passage uses third-person limited point of view because:

- it uses *she* to refer to Dorothy, and it only uses *I* in dialogue.
- the narrator is outside the story and does not have a name.
- it focuses on Dorothy and does not tell what the Scarecrow is thinking.

<sup>1</sup>She bade her friends good-bye, and again started along the road of yellow brick. When she had gone several miles she thought she would stop to rest, and so climbed to the top of the fence beside the road and sat down. There was a great cornfield beyond the fence, and not far away she saw a Scarecrow, placed high on a pole to keep the birds from the ripe corn.

<sup>2</sup>Dorothy leaned her chin upon her hand and gazed thoughtfully at the Scarecrow. Its head was a small sack stuffed with straw, with eyes, nose, and mouth painted on it to represent a face. An old, pointed blue hat, that had belonged to some Munchkin, was perched on his head, and the rest of the figure was a blue suit of clothes, worn and faded, which had also been stuffed with straw. On the feet were some old boots with blue tops, such as every man wore in this country, and the figure was raised above the stalks of corn by means of the pole stuck up its back.

<sup>3</sup>While Dorothy was looking earnestly into the queer, painted face of the Scarecrow, she was surprised to see one of the eyes slowly wink at her. She thought she must have been mistaken at first, for none of the scarecrows in Kansas ever wink; but presently the figure nodded its head to her in a friendly way. Then she climbed down from the fence and walked up to it, while Toto ran around the pole and barked.

<sup>4</sup>"Good day," said the Scarecrow, in a rather husky voice.

<sup>5</sup>"Did you speak?" asked the girl, in wonder.

<sup>6</sup>"Certainly," answered the Scarecrow. "How do you do?"

<sup>7</sup>"I'm pretty well, thank you," replied Dorothy politely. "How do you do?"

<sup>8</sup>"I'm not feeling well," said the Scarecrow, with a smile, "for it is very tedious being perched up here night and day to scare away crows."

### Practice! (Answer Key)

Read the following three sentences and decide which point of view is used in each one:

- "The entire assembly loved Derek's research paper, but no one was more impressed than his mother, who was in the second row." **third-person omniscient**
- "After I read my research paper to the school assembly, I wondered what my mom must have thought about it." **first person**

- “Derek read his research paper proudly to the assembly, but he was concerned about what his mother thought as he read.” **third-person limited**

#### **Additional Resource**

Consider this additional resource when teaching RL.4.6:

**Point of View Lesson Using *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*:** This lesson plan gives examples of strategies that can be used to teach point of view to elementary school students:

- <http://www.brighthubeducation.com/lesson-plans-grades-3-5/67152-use-the-true-story-of-the-three-little-pigs-to-teach-point-of-view/>

PREVIEW