

It's important to be able to recognize the point of view from which a story is being told. Read the following excerpts from literature.

**Directions:** Underline or highlight clues in the passages that helped you to determine each point of view. Decide which point of view is being used. Label each excerpt with one of these three points of view: ***first person, third person omniscient, or third person limited.***

**1. From *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli**

So he turned and started walking north on Hector, right down the middle of the street, right down the invisible chalk line that divided East End from West End. Cars beeped at him, drivers hollered, but he never flinched. The Cobras kept right along with him on their side of the street. So did a bunch of East Enders on their side. One of them was Mars Bar. Both sides were calling for him to come over.

**Point of view?** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. From *From the Mixed-Up files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, by E. L. Konigsburg**

Claudia was furious . . . She refused to look at Jamie again and instead stared at the statue. The sound of footsteps broke the silence and her concentration. Footsteps from the Italian Renaissance were descending upon them! The guard was coming down the steps. There was just too much time before the museum opened on Sundays. They should have been in hiding already. Here they were out in the open with a light on!

**Point of View?** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. From *The Twenty-One Balloons* by William Pene du Bois**

It is funny that my trip has ended by being such a fast trip around the world. I find myself referred to now as one of the speediest travelers of all times. Speed wasn't at all what I had in mind when I started out. On the contrary, if all had gone the way I had hoped, I would still be happily floating around in my balloon, drifting anywhere the wind cared to carry me – East, West, North, or South.

**Point of View?** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. From *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry**

One of the soldiers, the taller one, moved toward her. Annemarie recognized him as the one she and Ellen always called, in whispers, "the Giraffe" because of his height and the long neck that extended from his stiff collar. He and his partner were always on this corner.

He prodded the corner of her backpack with the stock of his rifle. Annemarie trembled. "What is in here?" he asked loudly.

"Schoolbooks," she answered truthfully.

**Point of View?** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. From *Missing May* by Cynthia Rylant**

The day after May didn't come to us, Ob didn't get out of bed. He didn't get me up either, and from a bad dream I woke with a start, knowing things were wrong, knowing that I had missed something vitally important.

Among these, of course, was the school bus. It was Monday, and OB should have called me out of bed at five-thirty, but he didn't, and when I finally woke at seven o'clock, it was too late to set the day straight.

**Point of View?** \_\_\_\_\_

**6. From *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis**

He himself was a very old man with shaggy white hair which grew over most of his face as well as on his head, and they liked him almost at once. But on the first evening when he came to meet them at the front door he was so odd-looking that Lucy (who was the youngest) was a little afraid of him, and Edmund (who was the next youngest) wanted to laugh and had to keep on pretending he was blowing his nose to hide it.

**Point of View?** \_\_\_\_\_

**7. From *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou**

For one whole semester the streetcars and I shimmied up and scooted down the sheer hills of San Francisco. I clanged and cleared my way down Market Street, with its honky-tonk homes for homeless sailors, past the quiet retreat of Golden Gate Park, and along closed undwelled-in-looking dwellings of the Sunset District.

**Point of View?** \_\_\_\_\_

**8. From *The Olympic Games* by Theodore Knight**

While still a teenager, Lee met and began to train with some of the best divers in the country, among them several former Olympians. One former champion—Farid Simaika the Egyptian 1928 silver medalist who had moved to this country—gave Lee a piece of advice that he took to heart. He told the young diver that he might encounter prejudice in competition because he was of Korean descent. Simaika told Lee he would simply have to work twice as hard as other athletes. “You’ve got to be so much better that they have to give you the medal,” Simaika said.

**Point of View?** \_\_\_\_\_

**9. From “Through the Tunnel” by Doris Lessing**

He was an only child, eleven years old. She was a widow. She was determined to be neither possessive nor lacking in devotion. She went worrying off to her beach.

As for Jerry, once he saw that his mother had gained her beach, he began the steep descent to the bay. From where he was, high up among red-brown rocks, it was a scoop of moving bluish green fringed with white. As he went lower, he saw that it spread among small promontories and inlets of rough, sharp rock, and the crisping, lapping surface showed stains of purple and darker blue.

**Point of View?** \_\_\_\_\_

**10. From “Pictures on a Rock” by Brent Ashabraner**

One spring day a few years before the Rough Rock Demonstration School was opened, a five-year-old Navajo boy named Fred Bia was watching the family sheep flock in the arid countryside near the little town. It was his daily chore to follow the sheep as they drifted over the red, rocky earth in their endless search for grass and leaves of semi-desert plants.

**Point of View?** \_\_\_\_\_