

Shifting Points of View

Both fiction and nonfiction can be written from various points of view. The author's **point of view** is the voice of the person telling the story.

First Person Narration

When the story is being told from the point of view or perspective of a character who is in the story.

Pronouns such as **I, me, we, us, my, our, myself, ourselves** show first person narration.

Example: *I knew I was in trouble when I saw my mom's face.*

Third Person Narration

When the story is being told from someone else's point of view or perspective.

Pronouns such as **he, she, her, him, it, they, them, their, themselves** show third person narration.

Example: *Shannon knew she was in trouble when she saw her mom's face.*

Steps:

1. Read the excerpt with a partner.
2. Determine whether it is written in first or third person narration.
3. Restate the excerpt from a different point of view. For example, if the text is written in first person narration, restate it in third person narration.

TEXT 1: One fine morning, the curious baby elephant asked, "What does the crocodile have for dinner?" All together everybody yelled, "HUSH!" in a dreadful tone, and they shushed and shoed him away angrily. But the baby elephant did not understand why. He was still curious!

TEXT 2: When the earthquake hit, I was in my bedroom getting ready to sleep. My brother was downstairs in the kitchen. He screamed for me to come downstairs, "Rian, I think it's an earthquake! Run down now! We need to evacuate the house." My heart was racing as I noticed the ground rumbling and my books falling off the shelf. We made it out of the house safely and nothing major was damaged. I was so relieved.

TEXT 3: Marcela walked right past her sister. She had no plan to give her any of the candy that she had earned herself. If Janet wanted candy, she would have to use her own money. Marcela felt that was fair.

TEXT 4: Rosie wanted a kitten more than anything in the world. For months, she had dreamed of the day that she and her parents would adopt a new pet. But Rosie's mother insisted they wait until Rosie's birthday, which was still two months away. Rosie thought of kittens all day. She hoped hers would have blue eyes, fluffy fur, and a happy purr that Rosie would feel through her shirt when the kitten curled up on her chest.