

Name: _____

Date: _____

Omniscient and Limited Point of View

Remember that **point of view** is the vantage point from which the story is told. The narrator of a story can have an omniscient or limited view. Omniscient means “all-knowing.” If the narrator has an **omniscient point of view**, then he knows what is going on in the minds of all of the characters at all times. The reader gets to know what every character is thinking and feeling.

If the narrator has a **limited point of view**, then he doesn’t know everything. **Point of view** can be limited in two ways. **First-person point of view** (where a character in the story is telling the story) is limited. That character only knows what is happening where he/she is, and can only describe how he/she feels. **Third-person point of view** can be limited if the narrator “shadows” one of the characters. So the narrator is not in the story, but he/she only describes the action surrounding a specific character.

Examples:

First-Person Point of View:

When the bus came, I got on, carrying my pink backpack. It was the first day of school, and I was nervous. I smiled, though, when I saw my best friend Kevin sitting in the back.

Third-Person Limited Point of View:

When the bus came, Sharon got on, carrying her pink backpack. It was the first day of school, and Sharon was nervous. She smiled, though, when she saw her best friend Kevin sitting in the back.

Omniscient Point of View:

When the bus came, Sharon got on, carrying her pink backpack. It was the first day of school, and Sharon was nervous. She smiled, though, when she saw her best friend Kevin sitting in the back. Kevin was nervous, too. So, he was thrilled to see Sharon. Maybe this day would not be so bad after all.

Read each short text. Determine if the point of view is limited or omniscient. If it is limited, tell whether it is first-person limited or third-person limited.

The gym was crowded. Leslie was excited about the dance team’s performance, but she was afraid of performing in front of all of these people. Melissa could see the

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look of panic on Leslie's face. "It's okay," Melissa said. "We have practiced a lot for this." Hearing Melissa's words, Coach Turner turned around. "No need to be nervous, girls. You are going to be great!"

"Math class is boring," thought Tyler. Wishing that he could be in P.E., Tyler tried to concentrate on the x's and y's as Mrs. Smith explained the equation. When the bell rang, Tyler was one of the first ones to get up. "See you tomorrow, Tyler," Mrs. Smith said. "Don't forget our quiz." Tyler hung his head as he went into the hallway. He was definitely not ready for a quiz, but he forgot all about math the moment he stepped into his next class: P.E.!

Marie felt the impact as her mom hit the brakes just as another car pulled out in front of them. "Are you okay?" her mom asked. "Just relax, and I will call 911." Across town, Louis heard the alarm go off, and he put down his coffee cup. "Sounds like there has been an accident," he said to his partner Joe. "Let's get moving."

The lights in the mall were beautiful. There were red, green, and gold decorations everywhere. I couldn't wait to start shopping for presents for all of my friends. "Are you ready to go?" Dad asked. "Yes!" I exclaimed. "Let's shop!"

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Answers--Omniscient and Limited Point of View

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Third-person limited point of view

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First-person limited point of view
