

Focus Lessons



Lesson 2: Point of View I

Point of view refers to the narrator's perspective. When a story is written from the **first-person point of view**, the narrator is a character in the story who tells the story using the pronoun *I*. With **second-person point of view**, the narrator uses the pronoun *you* to address the reader directly. With **third-person point of view**, the narrator is an outsider to the story who reports the events of the story to the reader. The narrator refers to the characters either by name or by the pronouns *he* and *she*.

DIRECTIONS: Read the two versions of the same scene. Then answer the questions that follow.

Passage 1

- 1 We drove up the driveway and the car ground to a halt. Dad said, "So here it is. Our new house."
- 2 I didn't say anything. I just stared and hoped that he could read my face. It was a flat, squat house with dingy gray walls. Everything about it was ugly. Its windows were gray, with slatted shades, and its door had a cheap plastic welcome mat. It didn't even have a proper lawn, just some patchy grass and a few scraggly dandelions. I couldn't imagine ever calling this place home.
- 3 "So, what do you think?" said Dad. "Not bad, huh? There's lots of space, that's for sure. You'll have your own bedroom this time."
- 4 I just shrugged. I refused to give him the pleasure of eye contact. This time, I resolved, I wouldn't get my hopes up.

Passage 2

- 1 When the Saclaloses arrived at the new house, it was late afternoon. They'd been driving for five hours, and they were all hot and sticky. When the car crunched to a stop, they just sat there, drowsy and disoriented.
- 2 "So here it is," said Peter Saclalos, slapping his hands to his legs. "Our new house."
- 3 Silence. Amy wearily peeled the stereo headset off her ears and looked around. "No point in getting excited," she whispered to herself. They'd moved five times in the past two years. She hated moving, but complaining got her nowhere. She sighed, her face a mask of boredom.
- 4 John got out of the car first. His face was blank. He felt sick to his stomach.
- 5 "So, what do you think?" asked Mr. Saclalos. "Not bad, huh? There's lots of space, that's for sure. You'll have your own bedroom this time."
- 6 John just shrugged and looked away.

Focus Lessons



1. From which point of view is Passage 1 told? How do you know this?

2. From which point of view is Passage 2 told? How do you know this?

3. Compare the two passages. Identify two or three main ways in which the first passage differs from the second. Consider the ideas emphasized in each passage, the details included, and the information revealed.



**For more information on point of view, see
*Glencoe Literature, Course 4, pp. 2, 14, and R10.***

Copyright © The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Lesson 3: Point of View II

In a story with **third-person omniscient**, or all-knowing, point of view, the narrator stands outside the story and comments on the action. A third-person omniscient narrator knows everything about the characters and the events of the story, and may reveal details that the characters themselves don't know.

DIRECTIONS: *Read this version of the story about the Saclaloses' new house. Then answer the questions on the following page.*

- 1 The Saclaloses arrived at their new house by late afternoon. Amy and John were hot and sticky from the five-hour drive. They knew that they would hate this new house the moment their father told them he bought it. *It's going to be ugly*, Amy had thought during the drive, *but anything is better than that tiny, one-bedroom apartment back in Charlotte.*
- 2 It wasn't that they were spoiled or ungrateful. Amy and John were simply frustrated at all the changes that had ensued since their parents' divorce. They had already moved five times in two years.
- 3 Mr. Saclalos wanted what was best for his children. He knew that they were weary of moving, and all he wanted was to settle down. He was sure this house would signify a fresh start. But how could he convey his hope to Amy and John? "So here it is. Our new house," he said with a big smile.
- 4 John stared grimly at the shabby house. He noticed the peeling paint, the cheap doormat. His eyes caught sight of a piece of plastic sticking out from the dirt. It was a child's truck. Somehow, the sight of this truck made him terribly sad. He felt overwhelmed by a sense of loss.
- 5 "You'll have your own bedroom this time," Mr. Saclalos said hopefully. But John just stared at the new house with tired eyes. Mr. Saclalos looked at Amy. The expression on her face mirrored John's frustration. She had already decided that she would not be happy here, and she wondered how long they would stay.
- 6 Wearily, the family unpacked their bags and stepped inside. The rooms felt bleak and empty. Amy and John walked around silently, opening windows, trying to hide their disappointment. They felt, deep in their hearts, that this house would never feel like home.
- 7 With time, their feelings would change. With time, the kitchen would fill the house with comforting smells, and the backyard would blossom with flowers, and each room would be full of memories. The Saclaloses would stay in this house for twenty years, longer than they had ever stayed in any house before. But that would all come later. For now, they had only to take their first steps toward the door.