**Point of View Abstract**

**Dream Team**

Period: 1

Point of view refers to the speaker, narrator, persona or voice created by authors to tell stories, present arguments, and express attitudes and judgements. It also involves the speaker's position as an observer and recorder, but also the way in which the speaker's social, political, and mental circumstances affect the work of literature. **Point of view** is also a way of rendering the truth of a narrative, and for this, the author’s tense choice is very important, to see whether we see into the past, present, or future. The author uses **point of view** to not only make their works interesting, but also to bring them alive. **Point of view** can be considered the centralizing or guiding intelligence in a work; it is the mind that presents only the most important details to create the maximum impact in the story and on the reader. **Point of view** allows us to see each work of literary art in our own eyes, and interpret each story and situation how we want to. There are no limits, it is as you choose it to be.

**Speaker:** Narrator of story or poem, often imagined and consistently maintained by the author; may express own judgments or opinions (209 BFEB).

Ex: Huck Finn from *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

**Major mover:** A major participant in a work’s actions who either causes things to happen or who is subject of major events (210 BFEB).

Ex: Abigail from *The Crucible*

**First person POV:** If the voice of the work is an “I”; impersonation of a fictional narrator who may be named or unnamed (212 BFEB).

Ex: Tim O’Brien when he speaks about his experiences in *The Things They Carried*

**Reliable:** A speaker who has nothing to hide by making misstatements and who is untainted by self interest (214 BFEB).

Ex: Huck Finn from *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

**Unreliable:** A speaker who through ignorance, self interest, or lack of capacity, may tell lies and distort details (214 BFEB).

Ex: Claudius from *Hamlet*

**Second person:** A narration where listener (you) is the protagonist and speaker is someone with knowledge that the protagonist does not possess or understand about his or her own actions (214 BFEB).

Ex: The opening of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1)

**Third person:** The events in a work described with he, she, it, they (215 BFEB).

Ex: Certain chapters from *The Things They Carried*

**Authorial voice:** Voice or persona used by authors when seemingly speaking for themselves (215 BFEB).

Ex: The character Tim O’Brien extends the emotions of author Tim O’Brien in *The Things They Carried*

**Dramatic or objective POV:** Third person reporting speech and action but excluding commentary on the actions and thoughts of the characters (215 BFEB).

Ex: In the chapter “Love” from *The Things They Carried* the story is told as strictly a narration without insight into the characters’ emotions.

**Limited POV/ Limited Third Person/ Limited-Omniscient:** A third person narration in which the actions and thoughts of the protagonist are the primary focus of attention (215-216 BFEB).

Ex: Chapter 1 from *The Things They Carried*

**POV Character:** The central figure or protagonist in limited-point of view narration, the character about whom events turn, the focus of attention in the narration (216 BFEB).

Ex: Marlow from *Heart of Darkness*

**Omniscient:** When the speaker not only presents action and dialogue but also reports what goes on in the minds of characters (215 BFEB).

Ex: In *The Things They Carried* when the thoughts of each character were discussed to contribute to the plot of the story.

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### The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Huck introduces himself to us near the beginning of the story to indicate a **first person point of view** from a **major participant**. The story is revealed to us through Huck’s eyes and he tells us the truth as he knows it so it is a **reliable** narration as well. Mark Twain utilizes the point of view to display Huck’s rich personality which bolsters the style of the story. His youthfulness and morality is significant in the narration which makes the story seem genuine and alive as we relive Huck’s memories along with his emotional level. This is important especially since Miller wants actors to act according to how he designs the characters to think and

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### Death of a Salesman

Arthur Miller utilizes a **third person omniscient point of view** in order to allow the reader to connect to the characters on an emotional level. This is important especially since Miller wants actors to act according to how he designs the characters to think and
behave. By being able to connect with the characters emotionally, the audience can see how each character’s internal conflicts affect the external conflict between Biff and Willy. In Biff’s opinion, Willy is more concerned about financial success than loving his son. In Willy’s opinion, Biff is wasting his life away instead of fulfilling his vast potential. Both of these conflicting opinions contribute to different points of view in the story, which sparks the conflict within the family. Miller uses third person omniscient point of view to provide the reader with an all encompassing view of the Loman family and their individual struggles by highlighting how familial and societal obligations and expectations should not control individuals goals, beliefs, or actions.

**The Crucible**

In the play, Arthur Miller used various points of view to express different aspects and ideas. The dialogue of the characters showed the use of first person POV because it simply expressed each character’s speech, not their thoughts or emotions. Also, Miller uses third person omniscient point of view in the narration to give commentary and emotions of the characters. This helps compliment the dialogue of the characters because it gives the reader more information about the events. For example, Miller briefly tells the reader the time in which the character is speaking before the dialogue. This gives the reader a sense of how the characters are talking to each other. The emotion created by the omniscient POV allows the reader to connect more to the text and understand the events. Miller uses third person omniscient point of view in The Crucible to give insight into the unique mindsets of the characters which shows how fear often times influences people to seek salvation in the mob mentality. The paradoxical mob mentality often adopts beliefs that none of its members would believe individually.

**The Things They Carried**

In The Things They Carried Tim O’Brien uses the first person, third person, and third person omniscient points of view to provide the reader with the most accurate feelings associated with war. There is no precise way to identify how the war affected O’Brien so he told his war stories in multiple points of view to give the reader a wide range of emotions and experiences. O’Brien believed that the difference in point of view severely altered the way that events were remembered, and thus it the point of view is extremely important to the meaning of the story. For example, in the buffalo scene, the majority of readers think that Rat Kiley is insane and a maniac for slaughtering the water buffalo, while Tim and Rat believe that the killing is a reasonable way for Kiley to grieve over the death of Curt Lemon. The differences in point of view throughout The Things They Carried provide the reader with a broad understanding of the different soldiers in O’Brien’s squadron and helps to display how the Vietnam War affected each soldier differently. O’Brien effectively uses point of view to compare and contrast how the overpowering effect war has on the human brain leaves different irreversible side-effects on each individual soldier.

**Beloved**

Beloved, by Toni Morrison, delves into what it means for a mother to love her children in the depths of slavery. The context of slavery bends the meaning of maternal love because mothers could easily, without warning, lose their children at any time. It is hard for the typical person today to be able to relate to these inhumane circumstances so Morrison uses a narrator to take the reader on a literary tour of the time period and commonplace thought processes of typical people living through slavery. To further this transition from present day to life in slavery Morrison uses first person point of view in certain chapters to bring the reader into the shoes of the characters. Morrison uses Sethe in first person as a vehicle to live in slavery as well as show the exact cognitive state of Sethe regarding the reappearance of Beloved, the daughter she murdered. Morrison uses different points of view to show the MOTWAAW of the permanent effects of slavery on the emotions surrounding the maternal love a mother has for her daughter.

**Hamlet**

Shakespeare expresses a third person omniscient point of view in Hamlet which helps us to relate and understand the characters so much better. It brings us closer to the characters and their own personalities allowing us to connect on an emotional level. This P.O.V. allows us to feel as if we are in the play ourselves especially with the asides present. The third person omniscient helps give us the commentary and emotions of the characters. By using this, Shakespeare is able to create each persona for each character exactly how he wants to and portrays them as he wishes. One major mover and unreliable character is who truly drives the story of Hamlet is Claudius. He kills King Hamlet which drives the whole story. Without Claudius, the story of Hamlet never comes to be. Hamlet’s drive to avenge his father, ends with a fate never anticipated… everyone dies. Shakespeare’s creation of conflicting loyalties leads to all out chaos and in the end the blame is traced back to Claudius. This produces a theme, which is that lies and deceit immensely have the ability to create power, but also destroy it just as quickly.

**Heart of Darkness**

In the novel, Joseph Conrad utilizes a twice-separated, first-person point of view in order to describe the Congo the way he saw it and how it changed him as a person. It is important to notice that Conrad tells his story twenty years after the plot actually occurred, which has a major influence on the way the story is told. Conrad is a reliable speaker because he tells the story the way he remembers it with the intention of relieving the burden that is the clandestineness of his Congolese experience. In the beginning of the novel Marlow is a young man looking for adventure and experience. By the end of the novel, Marlow sees the people around him in Belgium as ignorant and foolish. This transformation conveys the theme of money and powers’ ability to irrationalize the decision-making process of any individual.