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Understanding Point of View

First person

- Generally told from one character's point of view (I, or a collective we) – including his thoughts and emotions, but not the thoughts or emotions of any other character. This character (can be a major or minor character) is the narrator of the scene and he or she will interpret the thoughts and emotions of other characters as he observes their actions.
- Very intimate, but it's difficult to advance in your story . . . and generally Christian Booksellers Association (CBA) publishers don't like first time novelists to use it.

Second person

- Talks to the reader as if he or she were the character (you saw that, you heard that) or sometimes a narrator might refer to a character in the second person.
- Extremely difficult to pull off, and really not used unless the protagonist is speaking to a younger version of himself or is journaling.

Third person limited

- Author speaks for what one character (he, she) per scene thinks, sees, hears, tastes, touches, and feels. No head hopping.
- Probably the most accepted POV for first time novelists in the CBA.

Third person objective

- The narrator tells the story as an objective third party observer (he, she) – no thoughts or emotions can be conveyed except through the interpretation of characters' actions, much like a movie. Sometimes this is called "the camera's eye" POV or the "fly on the wall" POV.
- Hard to pull off. Can feel impersonal if not done well.

Third person omniscient

- Author narrates the story from various characters' perspectives (he, she), but at the same time, the narrator knows everything – including the thoughts and emotions of any character, and the author often intrudes with subjective thoughts.
- Convenient, but impersonal and hard to follow unless it's done extremely well.