



The Roller Coaster Ride

VERSION #1 Point of View:

Amir steps into the shiny green car of the Double-Dragon Coaster with his best friend, Joe. *Clickety, clack*. It creaks up, up, up to the tippy top of the gray steel mountain. Then... whoosh! It plunges down, down, down at 100 miles per hour. Amir loves the way the coaster makes his stomach explode with a giant burst of butterflies! During the ride, he glances at Joe. Joe's blue eyes are glowing. His blonde hair is blowing. And his open mouth is screaming: "AAAAAAAHHH!!!" After the ride, Amir climbs out of the car and says to himself: "Roller coasters are TOTALLY awesome!" He tries to high-five Joe, but his buddy's face is lime-green, and he's shaking like Jello. "Does that mean he didn't enjoy the ride quite as much as I did?" wonders Amir.

VERSION #2 Point of View:

I step into the shiny green car of the Double-Dragon Coaster with my best friend, Joe. *Clickety, clack*. It takes off and creaks up, up, up to the tippy top of the gray steel mountain. Then...whoosh! It plunges down, down, down at 100 miles per hour. I love the way the coaster makes my stomach explode with a giant burst of butterflies! During the ride, I glance at Joe. His blue eyes are glowing. His blonde hair is blowing. And his open mouth is screaming: "AAAAAAAHHH!!!" After the ride, I climb out of the car and say to myself: "Roller coasters are TOTALLY awesome!" I try to high-five my buddy Joe, but his face is lime-green, and he's shaking like Jello. Does that mean he didn't enjoy the ride quite as much as I did?

VERSION #3 Point of View:

Amir steps into the shiny green car of the Double-Dragon Coaster with his best friend, Joe. *Clickety, clack*. It creaks up, up, up to the tippy top of the gray steel mountain. Then... whoosh! It plunges down, down, down at 100 miles per hour. Amir loves the way the coaster makes his stomach explode with a giant burst of butterflies! During the ride, he glances at Joe. Joe's blue eyes are glowing. His blonde hair is blowing. And his open mouth is screaming: "AAAAAAAHHH!!!" Poor Joe cannot wait for the ride to end. In fact, he is completely terrified. After the ride, Amir climbs out of the car and says to himself: "Roller coasters are TOTALLY awesome!" He tries to high five Joe, but his buddy's face is lime-green, and he's shaking like Jello. That's because Joe is thinking to himself: "Roller coasters are TOTALLY awful, and I really have to throw up now."

VERSION #4 Point of View:

Amir steps into the green car of the Double-Dragon Coaster with his best friend, Joe. The car makes this sound: *Clickety Clack*. The car takes off and climbs to the top of a 100-foot-high man-made steel slope. The car then plunges down the other side at a speed of roughly 100 miles per hour. During the ride, Amir glances at Joe. Joe's eyes are wide. His hair is blowing. And he is screaming: "AAAAAAAHHH!!!" After the ride, Amir climbs out of the car. He attempts to high-five Joe, but his friend is shaking and appears to be ill.



POINT OF VIEW: The perspective from which a story is told. The four main points of view are...

FIRST PERSON: Events are told by one character, using the pronoun *I*. Readers step inside this character's shoes and see events only from his/her point of view.

THIRD-PERSON LIMITED: Events are told through the eyes of one character, using third-person pronouns such as *he* or *she*. Readers see events only from his/her point of view.

THIRD-PERSON OMNISCIENT: Events are told by someone outside the story, using third-person pronouns such as *he* or *she*. Like a mind reader, this narrator magically knows the thoughts and feelings of every character.

THIRD-PERSON OBJECTIVE: Events are told by someone outside the story using third-person pronouns such as *he* or *she*. Like a newspaper reporter, this narrator reports only what is seen or heard, not what is thought or felt by the characters.



Key Questions

1. What is the point of view of the first passage? Underline clues that tell you so. Then write your answer on the line.
2. What is the point of view of the second passage? Underline clues that tell you so. Then write your answer on the line.
3. What is the point of view of the third passage? Underline clues that tell you so. Then write your answer on the line.
4. What is the point of view of the fourth passage? Underline clues that tell you so. Then write your answer on the line.
5. Compare the four different points of view. How does each one make you feel? Which one do you like the best? Why?

S-t-r-e-t-c-h Question: Some narrators are *objective*. That means they tell the truth and deal with facts. Other narrators are *subjective*. That means they speak from their own, often quirky, points of view and can sometimes be wrong or even lying. Can you think of examples of fiction stories told from both of these perspectives? Make a list.

The Write Stuff

Choose a simple fairy tale such as *Little Red Riding Hood* and rewrite it from one of the four points of view described above. Then share it with classmates, challenging them to identify the perspective.



Answer Key



POINT OF VIEW:

The Roller Coaster Ride

Key Questions: 1. Third-Person Limited. 2. First Person. 3. Third-Person Omniscient. 4. Third-Person Objective. 5. Answers will vary.

S-t-r-e-t-c-h Question: Answers will vary.

TIP: No two readers interpret a story—including its characters, plot, setting, tone, or imagery—exactly the same way.

For that reason, it's wise to invite differing opinions and healthy debate in the context of your literacy lessons.

Common Core State Standards Correlation

This lesson and activity will help you meet many of the reading and language arts standards recommended in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Listed below are the specific CCSS Reading Standards for Literature (RL) addressed in this lesson at each grade level. For more information about the CCSS, visit www.corestandards.org.

Literary Element



POINT OF VIEW

RL.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

RL.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

RL.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

RL.4.6: Compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated, including the difference between first- and third-person narratives.

RL.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

RL.5.6: Describe how a narrator or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.

RL.6.1: Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

RL.6.6: Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speakers in a text.