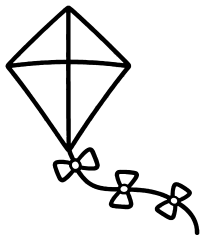
Name _____ Date _____

First and Third Person

Read both tellings of the same story.

First person

The Runaway Kite

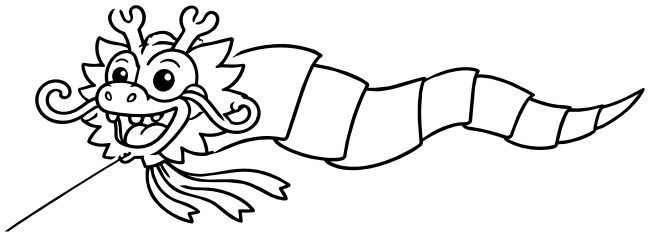


I had been waiting all week for a windy day, and on Saturday the trees were finally bending. I ran to the park with the dragon kite my grandpa had built for me. It climbed higher and higher until it was just a speck. Then the string snapped. I watched my kite drift over the rooftops, and I felt sick inside. Grandpa had spent a whole month making it.

I searched every street until dark. When I got home, I could not even look at Grandpa. But he only hugged me and said, “Kites are meant to fly away sometimes. We will build another one together.”

Third person

The Runaway Kite



On Saturday the wind was finally strong, and Lena raced to the park with the dragon kite her grandpa had built. It climbed until it was only a speck. Then the string snapped, and the kite drifted away over the rooftops. Lena's face went pale.

Back at home, Grandpa waited by the window as the sky grew dark. He was not worried about the kite at all. He was worried about her. When she finally came in, her eyes on the floor, he hugged her tightly. “Kites are meant to fly away sometimes,” he said. “We will build another one together.” Lena's shoulders relaxed for the first time all day.

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Name _____ Date _____

First and Third Person

The Runaway Kite: compare the two tellings to answer.

1. Who tells the first-person version? ***a narrator*** **Grandpa** **Lena**

2. Which words show that the first telling is in first person?

he, him and Grandpa I, me and my she, her and Lena

3. Lena says, "I felt sick inside." The third-person telling says, "Lena's face went pale." How are these two ways of showing her feelings different?

4. What do you learn from the third-person telling that Lena could not tell you? Why couldn't she?

5. Which telling helps you understand Lena's feelings best? Explain.

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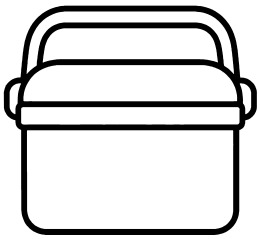
Name _____ Date _____

First and Third Person

Read both tellings of the same story.

First person

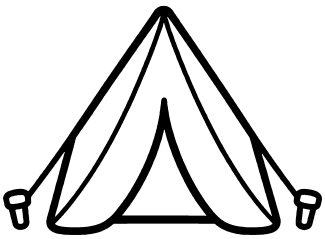
The Midnight Visitor



I am a raccoon, and I know a good thing when I smell it. Last night, a delicious smell floated out of the campsite by the lake. Everyone was asleep in their tents, so I crept over to the big blue cooler. The lid was tight, but my front paws are clever. I wiggled the latch until it popped open. Inside were sandwiches, apples and a whole bag of marshmallows! I carried the marshmallows to the lake and washed every single one. They turned into a sticky, gooey mess, but they were still the best thing I have ever eaten.

Third person

The Midnight Visitor



At midnight, a raccoon crept into the campsite by the lake. Inside the tent, Marco woke up to a strange clicking sound. He peeked out and saw two shining eyes beside the cooler. His heart pounded. Was it a bear? Then the creature lifted the lid with its tiny hands, and Marco almost laughed out loud. It was only a raccoon, and it was stealing their marshmallows!

Marco watched it dunk the marshmallows in the lake, one by one, until they were a sticky glob. In the morning, nobody believed his story until they found the empty bag and tiny muddy paw prints all around the cooler.

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Name _____ Date _____

First and Third Person

The Midnight Visitor: compare the two tellings to answer.

1. Who tells the first-person version of the story? **the raccoon** **a narrator** **Marco**

2. In the third-person telling, the narrator knows what Marco thinks and feels. Which sentence shows it?

A raccoon crept into the campsite by the lake.

They found the empty bag.

His heart pounded. Was it a bear?

3. The raccoon calls the soggy marshmallows "the best thing I have ever eaten." Why would Marco describe them differently?

_____

_____

4. What part of the night does only the third-person telling show? What part does only the first-person telling show?

_____

_____

_____

5. Why might an author choose to tell this story in third person?

_____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

First or Third Person?

Read each passage. Circle the point of view it is told from.

In first person, *a character in the story tells it, using I, me, my and we. In third person, a narrator outside the story tells it, using he, she, they and names.*

1. I climbed the ladder slowly, with my knees shaking. **first person** **third person**

2. Maya counted the coins twice before she paid. **first person** **third person**

3. The twins raced to the bus, but it pulled away without them. **first person** **third person**

4. We built a fort out of couch cushions and hid inside it all afternoon. **first person** **third person**

5. He told his sister, "I will be home by six," and then he left. **first person** **third person**

6. My dog barks at every leaf that blows past our window. **first person** **third person**

7. Nobody noticed the cat slip quietly out the door. **first person** **third person**

8. When the lights went out, I grabbed my little brother's hand. **first person** **third person**

9. Passage 5 has the word "I" in it, but it is in third person. Explain why.

_____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

Rewrite It

Change the point of view. Change the pronouns, and keep the story the same.

1. Rewrite this passage in third person. The narrator's name is Sam.

"I stepped onto the stage and looked out at the crowd. My hands were shaking, but I took a deep breath and began to sing."

2. Rewrite this passage in first person, as if you were Rosa.

"Rosa opened the box slowly. Inside was a tiny gray kitten. She gasped and scooped it into her arms."

3. In your third-person passage about Sam, could you add what someone in the crowd was thinking? Explain why or why not.

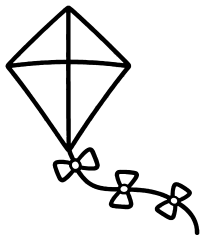
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First and Third Person

Read both tellings of the same story.

First person

The Runaway Kite

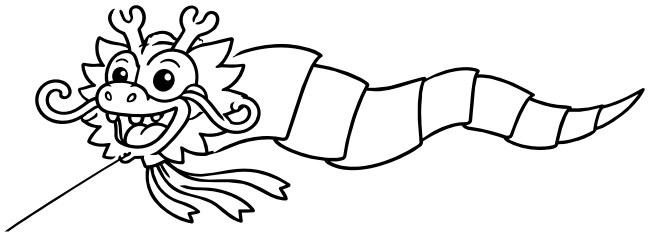


I had been waiting all week for a windy day, and on Saturday the trees were finally bending. I ran to the park with the dragon kite my grandpa had built for me. It climbed higher and higher until it was just a speck. Then the string snapped. I watched my kite drift over the rooftops, and I felt sick inside. Grandpa had spent a whole month making it.

I searched every street until dark. When I got home, I could not even look at Grandpa. But he only hugged me and said, “Kites are meant to fly away sometimes. We will build another one together.”

Third person

The Runaway Kite



On Saturday the wind was finally strong, and Lena raced to the park with the dragon kite her grandpa had built. It climbed until it was only a speck. Then the string snapped, and the kite drifted away over the rooftops. Lena's face went pale.

Back at home, Grandpa waited by the window as the sky grew dark. He was not worried about the kite at all. He was worried about her. When she finally came in, her eyes on the floor, he hugged her tightly. “Kites are meant to fly away sometimes,” he said. “We will build another one together.” Lena's shoulders relaxed for the first time all day.

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First and Third Person

The Runaway Kite: compare the two tellings to answer.

1. Who tells the first-person version? ***a narrator*** **Grandpa** **Lena**

2. Which words show that the first telling is in first person?

he, him and Grandpa I, me and my she, her and Lena

3. Lena says, "I felt sick inside." The third-person telling says, "Lena's face went pale." How are these two ways of showing her feelings different?

In first person, Lena tells us her own feelings. In third person, the narrator describes what she looks like, so we figure out how she feels.

4. What do you learn from the third-person telling that Lena could not tell you? Why couldn't she?

Grandpa was worried about Lena, not the kite. Lena could not know what Grandpa was thinking.

5. Which telling helps you understand Lena's feelings best? Explain.

The first person, because Lena tells us exactly how she feels, like feeling sick inside.

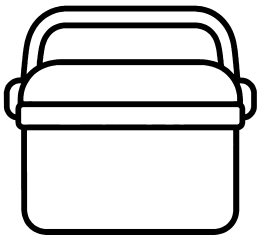
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First and Third Person

Read both tellings of the same story.

First person

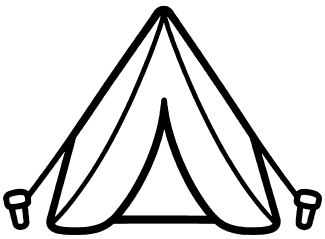
The Midnight Visitor



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Third person

The Midnight Visitor



At midnight, a raccoon crept into the campsite by the lake. Inside the tent, Marco woke up to a strange clicking sound. He peeked out and saw two shining eyes beside the cooler. His heart pounded. Was it a bear? Then the creature lifted the lid with its tiny hands, and Marco almost laughed out loud. It was only a raccoon, and it was stealing their marshmallows!

Marco watched it dunk the marshmallows in the lake, one by one, until they were a sticky glob. In the morning, nobody believed his story until they found the empty bag and tiny muddy paw prints all around the cooler.

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First and Third Person

The Midnight Visitor: compare the two tellings to answer.

1. Who tells the first-person version of the story?

the raccoon *a narrator* **Marco**

2. In the third-person telling, the narrator knows what Marco thinks and feels. Which sentence shows it?

A raccoon crept into the campsite by the lake.

They found the empty bag.

His heart pounded. Was it a bear?

3. The raccoon calls the soggy marshmallows "the best thing I have ever eaten." Why would Marco describe them differently?

To Marco they were stolen and ruined, a sticky glob. The raccoon was happy to eat them.

4. What part of the night does only the third-person telling show? What part does only the first-person telling show?

Only the third person shows Marco waking up scared and the morning after. Only the first person shows why the raccoon came and how it felt.

5. Why might an author choose to tell this story in third person?

A narrator outside the story can describe what more than one character does, and can show Marco's fear and surprise.

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First or Third Person?

Read each passage. Circle the point of view it is told from.

In first person, a character in the story tells it, using I, me, my and we. In third person, a narrator outside the story tells it, using he, she, they and names.

1. I climbed the ladder slowly, with my knees shaking. **first person** **third person**
2. Maya counted the coins twice before she paid. **first person** **third person**
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4. We built a fort out of couch cushions and hid inside it all afternoon. **first person** **third person**
5. He told his sister, “I will be home by six,” and then he left. **first person** **third person**
6. My dog barks at every leaf that blows past our window. **first person** **third person**
7. Nobody noticed the cat slip quietly out the door. **first person** **third person**
8. When the lights went out, I grabbed my little brother's hand. **first person** **third person**

9. Passage 5 has the word “I” in it, but it is in third person. Explain why.

The “I” is inside quotation marks. A character is speaking, but the narrator who tells the story is outside it and calls him “he.”

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Rewrite It

Change the point of view. Change the pronouns, and keep the story the same.

1. Rewrite this passage in third person. The narrator's name is Sam.

"I stepped onto the stage and looked out at the crowd. My hands were shaking, but I took a deep breath and began to sing."

Sam stepped onto the stage and looked out at the crowd. His hands were shaking, but he took a deep breath and began to sing.

2. Rewrite this passage in first person, as if you were Rosa.

"Rosa opened the box slowly. Inside was a tiny gray kitten. She gasped and scooped it into her arms."

I opened the box slowly. Inside was a tiny gray kitten. I gasped and scooped it into my arms.

3. In your third-person passage about Sam, could you add what someone in the crowd was thinking? Explain why or why not.

Yes. A third-person narrator can tell what any character thinks, not just Sam.

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