

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This lesson will help you to:

- select and interpret information, ideas and perspectives
- comment on the language used.

SUBJECT VOCABULARY

first person written from the perspective of one person – that is, using 'I'; this differs from the second person, which directly addresses the reader ('you'), and the third person ('he', 'she' and 'it')

third person using the third person – that is, 'he', 'she' and 'it'; this differs from the first person ('I') and the second person, which directly addresses the reader ('you')

narrator a character that tells the story in a novel, play, poem or film

NARRATIVE VOICE

When considering a text, it is important to study and discuss the techniques and features of narratives, including style, plot, character, theme, viewpoint, tone and mood. A useful starting point is to consider the 'voice' which is used to tell the story. Is the story written in the **first person** ('I'), or **third person** (written from an external perspective separate from the characters)?

ACTIVITY 1

A01

SKILLS

CRITICAL THINKING, REASONING

▼ FIRST- AND THIRD-PERSON NARRATION:

Whether a text is narrated in the first person or in the third person can have an impact on how a reader feels about the text. For example, a first-person narrative is more personal and a third-person narrative is more detached. Draw up a list of other differences between them.

CONSIDERING NARRATIVE VOICE

DID YOU KNOW?

Second-person narration speaks directly to the reader, usually referring to them as 'you'. This technique is not used very often but can make the reader feel part of the story as it invites involvement or agreement with the narrator.

When thinking about the narrative voice, consider these questions.

- Does the writer tell the story from a **narrator's** point of view?
- Does the writer give the reader several different points of view?
- What tone is used? For example, is it urgent, anxious, relaxed, excited?
- Do you get a sense of the narrator as a character? What details of their lives are suggested?
- Is the narrator writing the story about themselves?
- Can the reader trust the narrator? Are there any clues that you should not believe everything that they say?
- Is a setting and time period established? What kinds of words are used for this?

▼ FROM THE SALT ROAD BY JANE JOHNSON

When I was a child, I had a wigwam in our back garden: a circle of thin yellow cotton draped over a bamboo pole and pegged to the lawn. Every time my parents argued, that was where I went. I would lie on my stomach with my fingers in my ears and stare so hard at the red animals printed on its bright decorative border that after a while they began to dance and run, until I wasn't in the garden any more but out on the plains, wearing a fringed deerskin tunic and feathers in my hair, just like the braves in the films I watched every Saturday morning in the cinema down the road.

Even at an early age I found it preferable to be outside in my little tent rather than inside the house. The tent was my space. It was as large as