

grandeur Grandness.

Georgian British style of architecture

during the period 1714–1811.

archaeologists Scientists who study the

past by looking at historical objects and

sites.

unbidable Will not be told what to do.

oddly attenuated Strangely long and thin.

mannequins Models or dummies.

KEY POINT

The narrative voice in a text is another key part of a text. The tone can help set the mood and atmosphere and the choice of first- or third-person narration can help shape how events are reported.

my imagination, which was infinite. But the house, for all its grandeur and Georgian spaciousness, felt small and suffocating. It was stuffed with things, as well as with my mother and father's bitterness. They were both archaeologists, my parents: lovers of the past, they had surrounded themselves with boxes of yellowed papers, ancient artefacts, dusty objects, the fragile, friable husks of lost civilizations. I never understood why they decided to have me: even the quietest baby, the most house-trained toddler, the most studious child, would have disrupted the artificial, museum-like calm they had wraped around themselves. In that house they lived separated from the rest of the world, in a bubble in which dust motes floated silently like the fake snow in a snow-globe. I was not the child to complement such a life, being a wild little creature, loud and messy and unbidable. I liked to play rough games with the boys instead of engaging in the sedate, codified exchanges of the other girls. I had dolls, but more often than not I beheaded or scalped them, or buried them in the garden and forgot where they were. I had no interest in making fashionable outfits for the oddly attenuated pink plastic mannequins with their insectile torsos and brassy hair that the other girls so worshipped and adorned.

ACTIVITY 2

A01

SKILLS

CRITICAL THINKING

ANALYSING A NARRATIVE VOICE

Re-read the extract from *The Salt Road* by Jane Johnson. Highlight any information the reader is given about the narrator in the passage. Then construct a P-E-E paragraph to answer the following question.

What sense of the narrator's home life is suggested in this passage?



▲ Narrative voices can be used to direct focus and attention.