

Warm-Up

Character and Theme in “Gentleman of Río en Medio”

?

Lesson Question

Lesson Goals

Read the story “Gentleman of Río en Medio,”
by Juan A. A. Sedillo.

Consider the effect
of the narrator’s
point of view.

Recognize how a
character’s

reveal theme.

Identify the theme
of a

W
2K

Words to Know

Write the letter of the definition next to the matching word as you work through the lesson. You may use the glossary to help you.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| _____ theme | A. something that follows a cause |
| _____ narrator | B. one message a text conveys about a topic |
| _____ point of view | C. to act upon so as to produce a response |
| _____ effect | D. the method a storyteller uses to develop or present a character |
| _____ characterization | E. refers to who tells the story and how it is told |
| _____ affect | F. the voice or character telling a story |

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**Getting to Know Each Other**

One of the ways we get to know a new person is to ask a lot of .

As we ask them questions, we get to know a lot about their personality.

is what makes someone unique.

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The Narrator in a Story

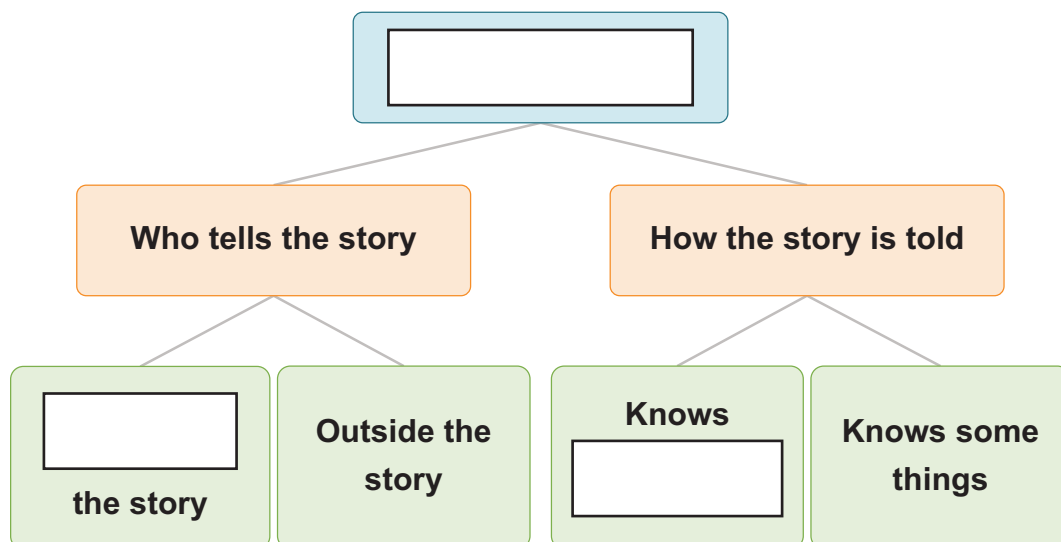
The **narrator**:

- is the or character telling a story.
- is sometimes a in the story but does not have to be.
- may or may not know everything that happens in the story.
- the people and events of the novel, which how the reader sees them.
- is not the author of the story.

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The Narrator's Point of View

Point of view refers to who is the story and how it is told.



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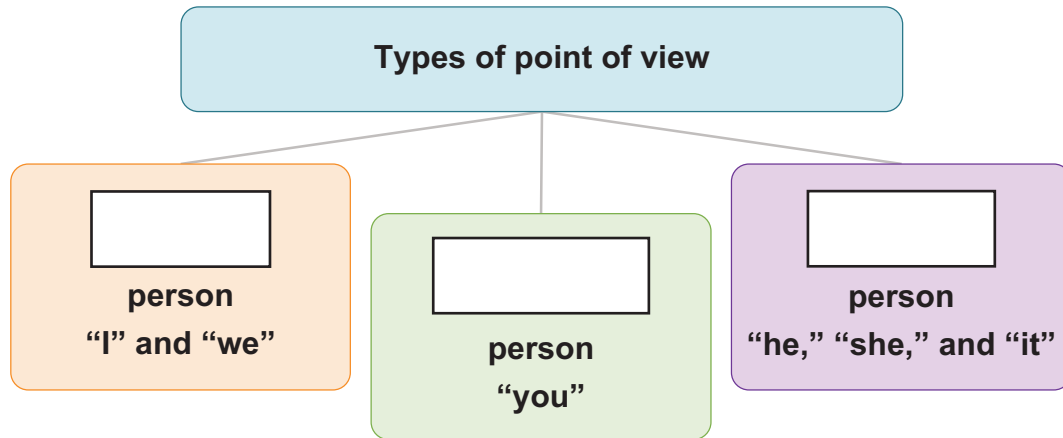
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Types of Point of View



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Learning about the Narrator as a Character

In a story told by a [] narrator, the reader must look for [] to learn about what the narrator is like. Readers should:

- pay [] to basic details about the narrator.
- think about the narrator's [] in the story.
- consider how the narrator [] other characters.

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Building a Picture of the Narrator

Underline the phrase in the passage that shows that the narrator is an outsider.

The day of the sale he came into the office. His coat was old, green and faded. I thought of Senator Catron, who had been such a power with these people up there in the mountains. Perhaps it was one of his old Prince Alberts. He also wore gloves. They were old and torn and his fingertips showed through them. He carried a cane, but it was only the skeleton of a worn-out umbrella. Behind him walked one of his innumerable kin – a dark young man with eyes like a gazelle.

–“Gentleman of Río en Medio,”
Juan Sedillo

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How Readers Meet the Characters

is the way a storyteller develops or presents a character.

Characterization

- The narrator uses specific adjectives to tell the reader about a character.

- The narrator uses a character's actions, thoughts, and speech to show the reader who that character is.

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Types of Characterization

Underline the indirect characterization used in the passage.

It took months of negotiation to come to an understanding with the old man. He was in no hurry. What he had the most of was time. He lived up in Río en Medio, where his people had been for hundreds of years. He tilled the same land they had tilled. His house was small and wretched, but quaint. The little creek ran through his land. His orchard was gnarled and beautiful.

–“Gentleman of Río en Medio,”
Juan Sedillo

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Juan A. A. Sedillo (1902–1982)

- Is not the of his stories
- Was born in New Mexico
- Lived in the United States
- Worked as a writer and and held public office
- Became famous for his story “Gentleman of Río en Medio”

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Stating a Theme

Theme is a expressed by a work of literature.

Theme is expressed as a one- or two-sentence statement that has appeal.

Theme relates to the real world and should not be story specific.

:

- Money cannot buy happiness.

Not themes:

- He is very happy, even without a lot of money. (statement or observation, not universal)
- Money (topic)

4

Finding Theme through a Character's Actions

Don Anselmo's actions are the of the story.

- Don Anselmo and his have lived on this land a long time.
- He is a family member.
- He wants to sell the land to “good people.”
- He is unwilling to back out of the deal and to take more money.
- He does not tell the buyers that he does not own the trees.

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Connecting Narrator, Character, and Theme

Underline the narrator’s positive message about Don Anselmo in the passage.

There was nothing we could do. Legally we owned the trees, but the old man had been so generous, refusing what amounted to a fortune for him. It took most of the following winter to buy the trees, individually, from the descendants of Don Anselmo in the valley of Río en Medio.

–“Gentleman of Río en Medio,”
Juan Sedillo

Summary

Character and Theme in “Gentleman of Rio en Medio”

?

Lesson Question

How can getting to know a character help readers understand a story’s message?

✓

Answer

Use this space to write any questions or thoughts about this lesson.