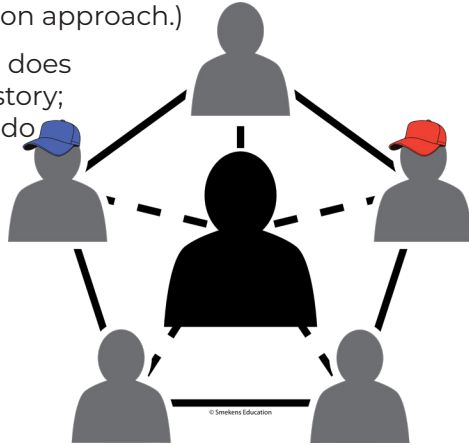# Comparing Points of View

NARRATOR POV

- Also known as THIRD-PERSON point of view.
- The narrator tells the whole story to the reader; he is not a character in the story. (This is the most common approach.)
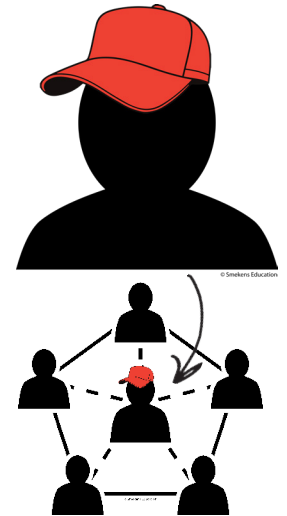- The narrator does not live the story; he does not do any of the action.
- The narrator has equal knowledge of all of the characters.

- He reports to the reader what all of the characters do, say, and think. (He shows the perspective of each character.)
- The narrator is watching all of the characters at the same time, so he can tell the reader about multiple plots/events happening simultaneously.
- Since the narrator *tells* about the other characters, he uses third-person pronouns— *he, she, they, them* when telling their story.
- The narrator also *talks about* the characters behind their backs, commenting on their actions and choices. (The narrator has a perspective.)

CHARACTER POV

- Also known as FIRST-PERSON point of view.
- A character lives the story *and* tells his side of who did what; this is his side of the story.
- A character tells the reader what *he* does and says— and shares how *he* thinks and feels.
- A character tells the reader what other characters do and say— but he does NOT know how they think or feel. (This is a disadvantage— the reader only sees this one character's perspective.)
- The reader knows more about this one character's fears, worries, secrets, and feelings than the other characters do.
- Since the character talks about himself, he uses first-person pronouns— *I, me, my,* and *mine.*
- A character does not usually stop to describe himself. The reader is left to collect clues sprinkled throughout the story to create a physical description.

MULTIPLE-PERSPECTIVE TEXTS

- Different parts of the story are told by different characters.
- It uses first-person pronouns (e.g., *I, me, my, mine*), but the person talking changes throughout the text.
- Different characters tell their version of the story— all in the same text.
- The different perspectives are usually separated by section or chapter or labeled with the character's name.
- This unique approach to point of view provides the reader with the advantages that come with both first and third-person points of view. The reader is privy to information about all of the characters— as in third-person narrator POV. But he also gets more personal intel on individual characters— information other characters don't even know. This is the power of first-person character POV.