**THIRD PERSON POINT OF VIEW**

**The third-person narrative** is one of three possible points of view for telling a story. In a third person narrative, the participants in the narrative are understood to be distinct from the person telling the story. Third person narratives employ the words "she, he, they".

The three most common forms of third person narration are . . .

**A third person omniscient narrator** witnesses all events, even some that no characters witness. The omniscient narrator is privy to all things past, present and future - as well as the thoughts of all characters. The story can focus on any character at any time and on events where there is no character.

**The third person limited omniscient** point of view is limited to the thoughts and feelings of one character. The story is told through the eyes of one character.

eg. Harry Potter Series by JK Rowling

**The third person objective** is similar to a video of an event. The reader is privy to all the actions of usually all the characters, but the narrator does not reveal character's thoughts and emotions.

eg. [Hills like White Elephants](http://www.moonstar.com/~acpjr/Blackboard/Common/Stories/WhiteElephants.html) by Ernest Hemingway is built around dialogue. We know the setting, we know the conversationalists and we know the content of their discussion - but we never get to understand how they are feeling or see what they are thinking.

'I don't care about me.'

'Well, I care about you.'

'Oh, yes. But I don't care about me. And I'll do it and then everything will be fine.'

'I don't want you to do it if you feel that way.'

The girl stood up and walked to the end of the station. Across, on the other side, were fields of grain and trees along the banks of the Ebro. Far away, beyond the river, were mountains. The shadow of a cloud moved across the field of grain and she saw the river through the trees.

'And we could have all this,' she said. 'And we could have everything and every day we make it more impossible.'

'What did you say?'

'I said we could have everything.'

'No, we can't.'

'We can have the whole world.'

'No, we can't.'

'We can go everywhere.'

'No, we can't. It isn't ours anymore.'

'It's ours.'

'No, it isn't. And once they take it away, you never get it back.'

'But they haven't taken it away.'

'We'll wait and see.'

'Come on back in the shade,' he said. 'You mustn't feel that way.'

'I don't feel any way,' the girl said. 'I just know things.'