

Point of View — Completed Example

Original passage · Identify narrator access first, then explain how that access shapes the reader’s experience.

PRACTICE PASSAGE

I kept the folded map in my jacket pocket even though I had already memorized the route. At the corner, Mateo waved from across the street. I could not tell why he looked worried, so I crossed quickly. “The library is closed,” he said. Only then did I notice the paper sign taped to the door.

NARRATOR / PRONOUN CLUES

The narrator is a character and uses “I”: “I kept,” “I could not tell,” “I notice.”

WHAT THE NARRATOR CAN KNOW

The narrator reports personal thoughts and observations, but does not know Mateo’s reason for looking worried until he speaks.

WHAT IS LIMITED OR HIDDEN

Mateo’s thoughts are unavailable. The reader learns about the library closure only when the narrator does.

EVIDENCE

“I could not tell why he looked worried” directly shows that the narrator cannot access Mateo’s thoughts.

POINT OF VIEW + EFFECT

First-person point of view. Because the narrator knows only their own thoughts and observations, the reader discovers the closed library at the same moment the narrator does. That limited access creates a small surprise and keeps Mateo’s concern unexplained until dialogue supplies the missing information.