

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Bug's Perspective

Walt Disney's *A Bug's Life* comically portrays the life of an oppressed ant colony. The movie follows Flik, who heroically hires circus bugs to fight the evil grasshoppers. The movie is not told from the average point of view! How many people consider how ants feel?

What are some other books or movies that contain an unusual point of view?

In this activity, you'll examine how historical events can be portrayed differently through point of view.

Choose one (or several) episodes below. Write about the event, using two of the points of view listed underneath. Share your writing with a partner.

The Civil War

- a slave
- a carpet bagger
- a slave owner
- an abolitionist
- Quaker

The Vietnam War

- "hawk"
- "dove"
- the President
- college student
- soldier

Salem Witch Trials

- the judge
- the accusing girls
- Tituba

Episode: _____

First point of view: _____

Second point of view: _____

If you were writing a story about the episode, which point of view would you select? Why? _____



Playing with Point of View

How do you know which point of view to use? Each type has a different effect. Read the following piece:

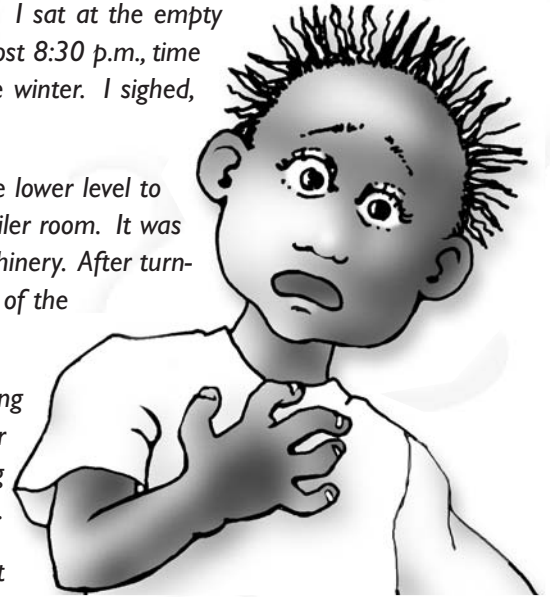
A Night at the Pool

It was Tuesday and my co-worker, Tim, had not yet exacted his revenge. I sat at the empty swim club, nervously wondering if tonight would be the night. It was almost 8:30 p.m., time to go down to close the indoor pool that very few members used in the winter. I sighed, knowing that Tim could get into any of the club entrances with his key.

At 8:40, I finished covering the pool. Now it was time to go down to the lower level to turn off the indoor pool light switch in the boiler room. I despised the boiler room. It was a dark, dank room full of mysterious hisses and moans made by the machinery. After turning off the light, I would run back upstairs, away from the unseen terrors of the lower level. Now it was time to enter it once again.

I reached for the doorknob, hesitantly. I pushed open the door with shaking hands. Silence. I took a step, the darkness enveloping me. I reached for the light switch when, "BOOOOOOO!" Something grabbed me, laughing maliciously. "Ahhhhhhhhhh!" I screamed hysterically and burst into tears.

The light switched on and there was Tim, laughing heartily. "Ha, ha, I got you!" he said with a satisfied gleam in his eye.



1. What point of view is this story told from? _____

Is it a good choice for this particular story? Why or why not? _____

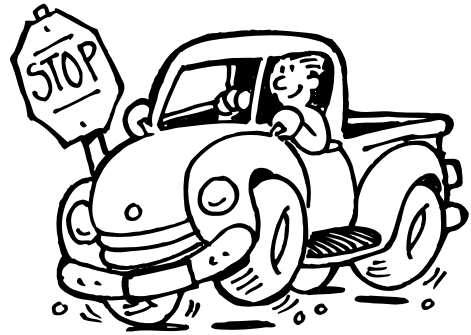
2. Insert some inner monologues. Write them on another sheet or in your notebook. How do they change the story?

3. Now rewrite the story with a different point of view. Insert some inner monologues. How does the story change? Is anything lost in the change?

It All Depends on Point of View

This is what happened:

The driver of a pickup truck didn't stop at a stop sign. As a result, the truck drove into the side of a mini van, injuring several passengers.



Write one sentence to describe the accident from each point of view.

1. The driver of the pickup: _____

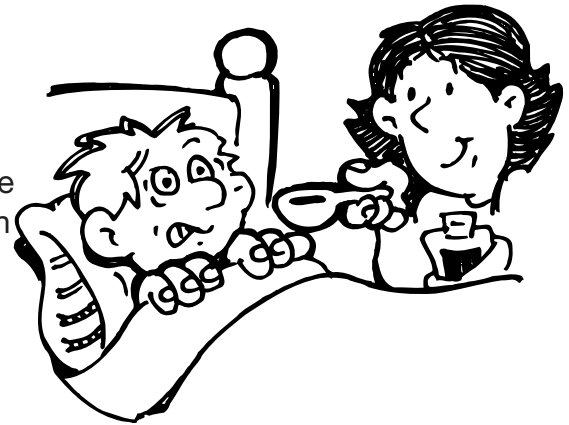
2. The driver of the van: _____

3. A passenger in the van who was injured: _____

4. A witness to the accident: _____

This is what happened:

A child ran a high fever. His mother took him to the doctor. The doctor prescribed medicine to bring down the fever. The medicine was expensive and tasted awful, but helped the child.



Write one sentence about the medicine from each point of view.

5. The child: _____

6. The parent: _____

7. The doctor: _____
