**First-person view**

In a **first-person narrative** the story is relayed from the **P**oint **o**f **V**iew of a character within the story, referring to themselves as "I" (or, when plural, "we"). Often, the first-person narrative is used as a way to directly convey the deeply internal, otherwise unspoken thoughts of the narrator. The narrator can be the protagonist (e.g., Gulliver in *Gulliver's Travels*), someone very close to him who is privy to some of his thoughts and actions (Dr. Watson in *Sherlock Holmes).*

**The protagonist/narrator** character's inner thoughts can be conveyed openly to the audience, even if not to any of the other characters. It also allows that character to be further developed through his/her own style in telling the story.

The narrator may be conscious of telling the story to a given audience, perhaps at a given place and time, for a given reason.

E.g. “I freely own myself to have been struck with inexpressible delight, upon hearing this account: and the person who gave it me happening to understand the Balnibarbian language, which I spoke very well, I could not forbear breaking out into expressions, perhaps a little too extravagant. I cried out, as in a rapture, ‘Happy nation, where every child hath at least a chance for being immortal ...’”

(*Here Gulliver tells the tale as the author of the book relating not only the observation but also his own feelings and reactions.)*

The **sidekick** viewpoint character takes actions, makes judgments and expresses opinions, thereby not allowing the audience to be able to comprehend some of the other characters' thoughts, feelings, or perceptions as much as the narrator's own. We become aware of the events and characters of story only through the narrator's views and knowledge.

E.g. “I listened in amazement as Holmes proceeded to reveal details of our client’s life and recent activity . . .”

(*Watson only has his own knowledge and observation to convey to the reader until later when Holmes points out the clues that led to his deductions.)*

In some cases, the first-person narration may be told as a story within a story, with the narrator appearing as a character in the story.

In autobiographical fiction, the first person narrator is the character of the author. The narrator is still distinct from the author and must behave like any other character and any other first person narrator.

First-person narrations may also be told like third-person (or omniscient ) ones, in the guise of a person experiencing the events in the story without being aware of conveying that experience to an audience. Or in which the narrator is a character in the story, but also knows the thoughts and feelings of all the other characters. It can seem like third person omniscient at times. A notable example is *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold, where a young girl, having been killed, observes, from some after-life vantage point, her family struggling to cope with her disappearance.

Typically, however, the narrator restricts the events relayed in the narrative to those of which it could reasonably have knowledge.