

Literary Terms Related to Novel (Part-1)

[BA (Hons.), Part-1, Paper-1]

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1. **Point of View:** The position or vantage point from which the events of a story seem to be observed and presented to us.
2. **First Person Point of View/First Person Narrative:** A narrative or a mode of storytelling in which the narrator appears as the 'I', recollecting his or her own part in the events related, either as a witness of the acting or as an important participant in it. Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* and Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* are some novels where the First Person Narrative is used. Two important advantages of the First Person Narrator are its credibility and intimacy.
3. **Second Person Point of View:** A narrative where the narrator tells the story to another character using the word 'you.' The author could be talking to the readers, which we could tell by the use of 'you,' 'you're,' and 'your.' In fiction, second person is used as a narrative voice, a term used for the method in which a narrator describes the story. An author may use Second Person Narrative when he/she wants to make the audience more active in the story or process, and to make the readers feel as if they are a part of the story and action in the novel. Examples include the novel *Half Asleep*

in Frog Pajamas by Tom Robbins, *Bright Lights, Big City* by Jay McInerney, *The Fifth Season* by N.K. Jemisin and others.

4. **Third Person Point of View:** The most common mode of storytelling. In the Third Person Point of View the narrator is not a character within the events related, but stands outside those events. All characters within the story are referred to as 'he' 'she' or 'they'. Thus Jane Austen's *Emma* begins: 'Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home....had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her.'
5. **Third Person Omniscient Narrator:** This kind of Third Person Narrator moves about freely in time and space and knows everything that needs to be known about the agents, actions and events, and has privileged access to the characters' thoughts, feelings and motives. The narrator is also able to describe events happening simultaneously in different places.
6. **Third Person Limited Narrator:** This kind of a Third Person Narrator focuses on the thoughts, feelings and resemblances of a single character and presents the other characters only externally. Henry James describes such a single selected character as the 'focus', 'mirror' or 'centre of consciousness'. Strether in James' *The Ambassadors* is such a character.
7. **Intrusive Narrator:** A kind of Third Person Omniscient Narrator who, in addition to reporting events of a story, offers further comments on characters and events and sometimes also reflects more generally on the significance of the story. Henry Fielding, George Eliot, Charles Dickens, Thomas Hardy, Dostoevsky and Tolstoy use this device frequently.

8. Gothic Novel/Gothic Romance: A story of terror and suspense usually set in a gloomy cold castle or monastery. Following the appearance of Horace Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto*, the Gothic novel flourished in Britain from the 1790s to the 1820s, dominated by Ann Radcliffe who is famous for *Mystery of Udolpho*. Other writers like M.G. Lewis (*The Monk*), and William Beckford (*Vathek*) made free use of the Gothic elements. Although Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* is not set in a medieval castle, it is classed as a Gothic for presenting a similarly grotesque atmosphere.