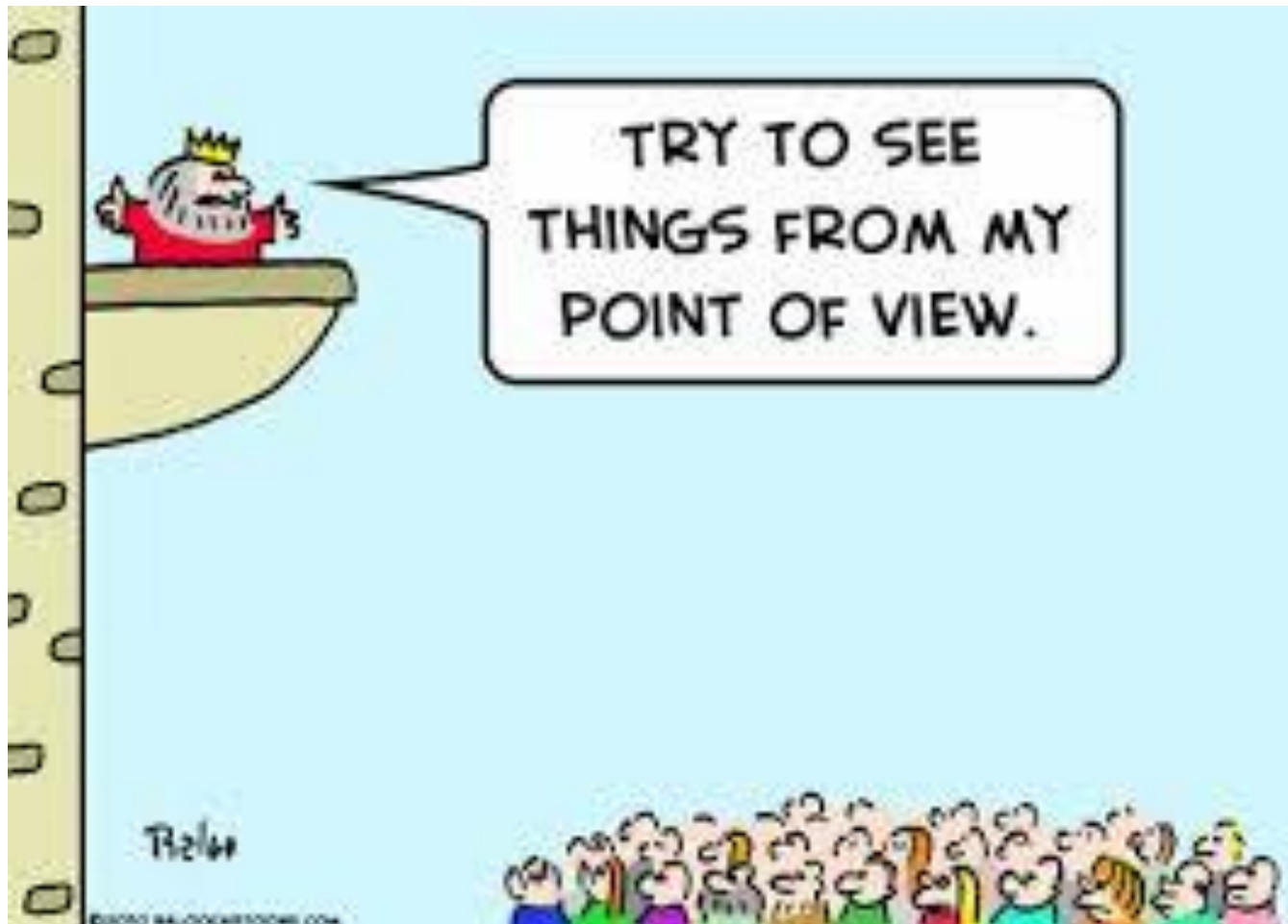


Point of View



First-Person Point of View

In the **first-person point of view** one character tells the story. This character reveals only personal thoughts and feelings of what s/he sees. The writer uses pronouns such as "I", "me", "mine", or "my".

Example:

I woke up this morning feeling terrific. **I** hopped out of bed excited to start the new day. **I** knew that today was the day **my** big surprise would come.

Second-Person Point of View

With the **second-person point of view** the narrator tells the story using the pronoun "you". The character is someone similar to you.

Example:

You wake up feeling really terrific. Then **you** hop out of bed excited to start the new day.

You know that today is the day that **your** big surprise will come.

This is rarely used in literature..

Third-Person Point of View

The **third-person point of view** is the most commonly used in fiction. When writing in the third-person you will use pronouns such as "he", "she", or "it".

Example:

Brian woke up feeling terrific. **He** hopped out of bed excited to start the new day. **He** knew that today was the day that **his** big surprise would come.



Practice

Number your paper from 1 – 10.

1st, 2nd, or 3rd Point of View

1. Excerpted from **Father Water, Mother Woods** by Gary Paulsen

It started that simply. At the courthouse or the library there was a large bulletin board, and for a dollar you could sign the board and write down your guess to win the car-through-the-ice raffle. Of course, you never met anyone who had won, but only those who knew somebody who had won, and therein, in the winning, the simplicity was lost.

1st, 2nd, or 3rd Point of View



2. Excerpted from **Nightjohn** by Gary Paulsen

A

"Tonight we just do A." He sat back on his heels and pointed. "There it be."

I looked at it, wondered how it stood. "Where's the bottom to it?"

"There it stands on two feet, just like you."

"What does it mean?"

"It means A--just like I said. It's the first letter in the alphabet. And when you see it you make a sound like this: *ayyy*, or *ahhhh*."

"That's reading? To make that sound?"

He nodded. "When you see that letter on paper or a sack or in the dirt you make one of those sounds. That's reading."

1st, 2nd, or 3rd Point of View

3. Excerpted from **Caught by the Sea** by Gary Paulsen

I drove to California that very day, straight to the coast, then north, away from people, to a small town named Guadalupe, near Santa Maria. There I bought some cans of beans and bread and Spam and fruit cocktail and a cheap sleeping bag and then walked out through the sand dunes, where I could hear the surf crashing. I walked until I could see the water coming in, rolling in from the vastness, and I sat down and let the sea heal me.

1st, 2nd, or 3rd Point of View

4. Excerpted from **Guts** by Gary Paulsen
I have spent an inordinate amount of time in wilderness woods, much of it in northern Minnesota, some in Canada and some in the Alaskan wilds. I have hunted and trapped and fished and have been exposed to almost all kinds of wilderness animals; I've had bear come at me, been stalked by a mountain lion, been bitten by snakes and punctured by porcupines and torn by foxes and once pecked by an attacking raven, but I have never seen anything rivaling the madness that seems to infect a large portion of the moose family.

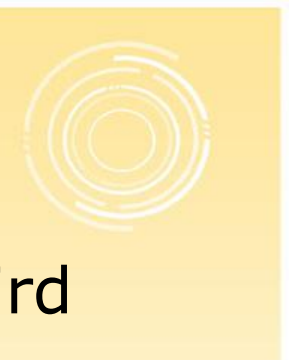
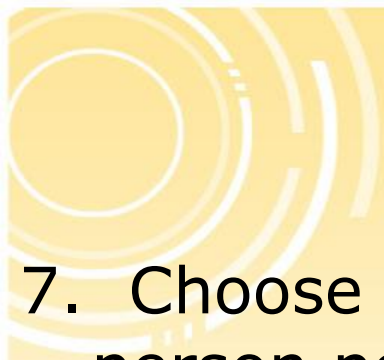
1st, 2nd, or 3rd Point of View

5. Excerpted from **Winterkill** by Gary Paulsen

And I would like to stop the story of Duda here and tell how he got his divorce and married Bonnie and they adopted me and we bought a farm That's how it would end in a movie, with Rock Hudson playing Duda and Doris Day playing Bonnie, and that's how it *should* end, and that's how I dream of it ending almost every night, until I wake up sweating and remember that it isn't a movie and it doesn't end that way.



6. Choose the sentence that is written using a first person point of view.
- A. While walking home, he tripped and fell into a puddle of water.
 - B. I believe that it's important for students to be involved in after school activities.
 - C. The City Council should reconsider its recent vote on a tax increase.
 - D. Citizens need to exercise their right to vote in the next election.



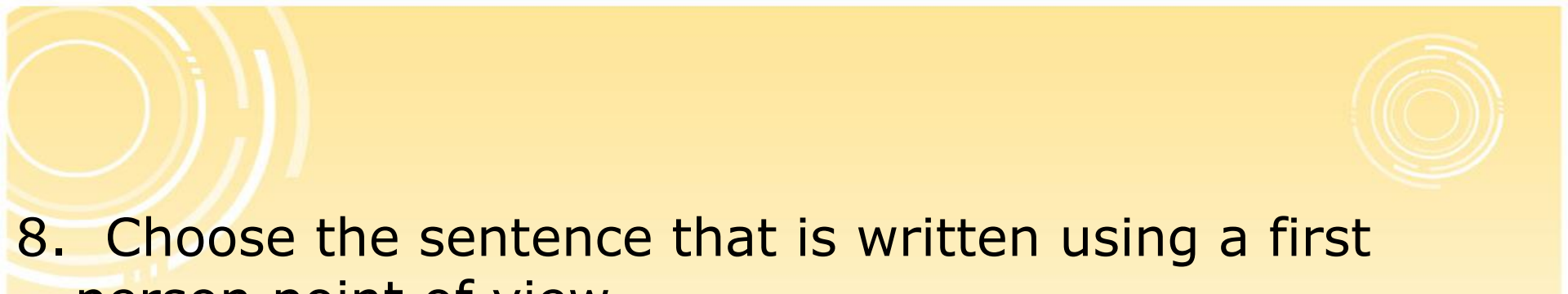
7. Choose the sentence that is written using a third person point of view.

A. Several of their players have signed scholarships to play college football.

B. You should know better than to send a text message while driving!

C. We need to take our time on this project; we could both use a good grade.

D. The red car with the black convertible top is mine.



8. Choose the sentence that is written using a first person point of view.

A. You need to do your best on the English test tomorrow.

B. Would you please pass the mashed potatoes?

C. Softball is my favorite sport, but soccer is a close second.

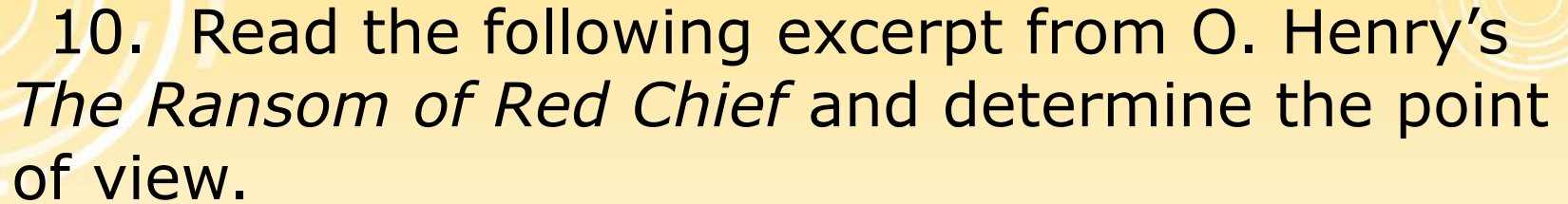
D. Darrell went to the movies with John this weekend.

9. Determine the point of view of the following passage.

Walking home, I heard someone running behind me. I was frightened. A tall man ran by me. He raced to an emergency police phone and frantically began pushing buttons. The man brushed sweat from his forehead and then noticed me standing there. "Hurry," he began, "we need to get out of here quickly. There's been an accident at the plant."

What point of view is used in this passage?

- A. first person
- B. second person
- C. third person
- D. fourth person



10. Read the following excerpt from O. Henry's *The Ransom of Red Chief* and determine the point of view.

"IT LOOKED like a good thing: but wait till I tell you. We were down South, in Alabama -- Bill Driscoll and myself -- when this kidnapping idea struck us. It was, as Bill afterward expressed it, "during a moment of temporary mental apparition"; but we didn't find that out till later."

- A. first person
- B. second person
- C. third person
- D. fourth person

Answer Key



1. second
2. third
3. first
4. first
5. first
6. B
7. A
8. C
9. A
10. A

Third-Person Point of View

In the **third-person omniscient**, the reader knows exactly what is going on inside various characters' heads in regards to their thoughts and feelings.



Third-Person Omniscient

Example from *Woods Runner* by Gary Paulsen
Although Samuel's parents lived in the wilderness, they were not a part of it. They had been raised in towns and had been educated in schools where they'd been taught to read and write and play musical instruments. They moved west when Samuel was a baby, so that they could devote themselves to a quiet life of hard physical work and contemplation. **They loved the woods, but they did not understand them. Not like Samuel.**

(Here the reader knows both the parents' and Samuel's feelings.)

Third-Person Point of View

In **third-person limited**, the reader knows only one character's mind, either throughout the entire work or in a specific section. The narration is limited to what can be known, seen, thought, or judged from a single character's perspective.

Sally wondered what the boys were thinking.



Literary Analysis

Identify the point of view in the story.

Provide two direct quotes with page numbers to support your choice.