

Waiting on Progress

- 1 Waiting for Pa to bring home our new truck, Mama dressed Billy and Claire as if they were going to a party. When Mama finished, she brushed her long hair, tied it in a knot, and removed her apron. Usually, Mama took off her apron only for weddings or funerals. She wanted me to wear my dress shirt and tie, but I didn't. We had a big order of lumber going to Mr. Heger the next day, and I was working harder than usual because Pa had been gone for two days. Putting on my good clothes just didn't make any sense to me.
- 2 About one o'clock, while finishing our lunch, we heard honking like a hungry goose. We all jumped up and ran outside to greet Pa and the new truck—the first motor vehicle owned by the Singleton family.
- 3 I'm not sure if the truck really was beautiful or if I just wanted it to be, but as far as I was concerned, its deep red glow put Grandma's ruby ring to shame. The headlamps shone the same as our best china, and the wooden sides gleamed so brightly that they hurt my eyes. I had never seen anything so exquisite.
- 4 Billy and Claire climbed on the running board and reached through the window to hug Pa's neck. He'd never been away for two whole days before. Then Billy spotted the bag of licorice in Pa's pocket, and he and Claire rushed off to divide the pieces between them.
- 5 "Do we have to share with Joe too?" Billy shouted.
- 6 I shook my head "no" toward Pa, and he called out, "No, it's all for you two kids."
- 7 I tried not smiling, but I did. Candy was for kids; trucks were for grownups. Pa and I were thinking alike for once.



From which point of view is this story written?

- A** First person, Joe
- B** First person, Pa
- C** Third person, limited
- D** Third person, omniscient

Signs of Change

- 1 Jason knelt and examined the winter grass on the baseball field. Yes, there it was, a small strand of green mixed with the yellow and brown blades. He reached out and lightly touched it. Finally, the first signs that spring had arrived. He gazed out at the field, his eyes gravitating to the spot where his team's season had ended last year. It was his spot, second base.
- 2 Jason could almost hear the slap of leather from baseballs popping into gloves as he remembered warming up with his teammates for the big playoff game. The stands behind him had been a sea of parents, teachers, and fellow students. They were there to watch the Northglenn Knights take on the West Hills Hornets. The winner would play for the city's Junior League Championship. The buzz of the crowd and the chatter of the players filled the air, putting a bounce in everyone's step. Jason felt wonderful, joking with his teammates, waving at people in the crowd. He was even bantering lightheartedly with the other team, keeping up small talk. As usual, he was generally clowning around, going through the warm-up drills at half-speed, showing off by making catches behind his back and flipping balls to his teammates.
- 3 "Knock it off, Jason," Coach Fowler warned. As usual, Jason paid little attention. He was the Knights' best player and knew Coach wouldn't put him on the bench in a playoff game. Besides, it had been that way all season. Jason didn't really do anything wrong; he just didn't try as hard as the other players. He didn't need to try because he had what the coach called "natural talent."

The author uses third-person limited **point of view** because —

- F** Jason's thoughts provide the main conflict
- G** Jason's actions are not important to the plot
- H** Coach's thoughts can be expressed by dialogue
- J** Coach's actions are not important to the theme

Lightning Strikes Twice

- 1 I walked all the way home from school with my eyes planted on the ground. It had to be here somewhere. It had to be.
- 2 "Watch out!" someone yelled. As I stopped to turn around, a truck whizzed right by me. I hadn't realized I was already at Riceville Road. In a few more blocks, I would be home, and Mother would want to know why I was late leaving school.
- 3 My lab partner Meheer bicycled up behind me. "You need to look where you're going, Kari."
- 4 "I know," I said. I was usually glad to see Meheer. He could always make me laugh, even while we were working in class. But today, nothing could cheer me up.
- 5 Meheer hopped off his bike. "What's wrong?"
- 6 "Oh, I lost a necklace that used to belong to my grandmother. I thought it might have fallen off on the way to school this morning."
- 7 "What's it look like? I'll help you find it."
- 8 We searched the clover around the path but found only foil gum wrappers and pop tabs from soda cans. Then we crossed Riceville Road into our neighborhood and scanned every curb, every sidewalk, and every flower bed. No necklace.
- 9 "There's always tomorrow," said Meheer, patting my shoulder. "I have a feeling it'll turn up."

What is the effect of using first person point of view in this story?

- A** It takes the focus off the emotions in the story.
- B** It helps the reader better understand each character.
- C** It keeps the location of the necklace a surprise.
- D** It allows the reader to pick a favorite character.