



Fictional texts

A fictional text isn't based just on facts, but on imagination. Every author wants to create as much reader interest as possible. The two most important features of fictional texts are the things that happen in a story (plot) and the way the story is told (narrative techniques).

To make a good story great, a writer also needs fascinating characters and an interesting setting.

FACT

The Queen's crown jewels are very valuable.

FICTION

Once there was an angry dwarf who left his village to find ...

1 Narrative perspectives

Read the text and fill in the gaps.

first-person narrator

not

third-person narrator

main character

reader

narrative perspective

The way a reader experiences a story strongly depends

on who tells it (narrative _____

perspective _____).

A first-person narrator _____

tells the story from his/her own perspective.

This kind of narrator is often the main character _____

_____, but not always.

The reader _____ can identify with this

kind of narrator and experience the story together

with him/her.

A third-person narrator _____

tells the story from the 'outside'. This perspective is

not _____ that of the main character.

It's Christmas Day. I know this is the last time I'll see him. He's old and very ill. And I live far away from home.

It was Christmas Day. She knew this was the last time she would see him. He was old and very ill. And she lived far away from home.

dwarf [dwp:f] Zwerg/-in ○ to identify with sb [aɪ'dentɪfaɪ wɪθ] sich mit jmdm. identifizieren



2 Atmosphere and suspense

- a) Read the explanations on the left and fill in the gaps.
b) Then decide which examples (A or B) create more atmosphere and/or suspense.
Tick ✓ the right boxes.

suspense

dramatic

five sense

information

atmosphere

An important narrative technique to create

a special atmosphere or

mood in the story is working with the

five senses (what the

characters see, hear, smell, taste and feel).

This helps the reader 'stand in the character's

shoes'. Suspense is a good

way to draw the reader into a story. It can be

created by using dramatic

language and/or by withholding important

information.

☐

She makes me
really nervous.

OR

A



I see her beautiful smile from the
other side of the room. I walk up
to her and she says "Hello!" in
her wonderful, soft voice. I can
smell her sweet perfume. I feel my
heart beat faster and faster and,
suddenly, I don't know what to say.

B



It was late at night and
he was alone, sleeping.
Suddenly, a strange
noise woke him up and
he heard loud footsteps
coming up the stairs.

A

OR

☐

One night, he woke up
when his brother came
home. He was scared
because he didn't know
it was his brother.

B

3 Structural elements of a story

Match the sentence parts. There are two sentence parts you don't need.

1. At the climax of a story

2. At a turning point

3. A flashback

a) the main character has to make an important
decision.

b) means that the main character tells the story
from his / her perspective.

c) takes the reader back to events that
happened before a particular point in the
story.

d) the story is told from 'the outside'.

e) the suspense is the highest.