



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 [dwa: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.

A

OR

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

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 | a) the main character has to make an important decision. |
| 2. At a turning point | b) means that the main character tells the story from his / her perspective. |
| 3. A flashback | 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. |