Point of view worksheet

5th grade reading · Literature · RL.5.6

Name _____ Date _____

For grown-ups: 10 questions from our point of view practice, easier ones first. Read a question aloud if your child wants that, then check together with the answer key on page 3. Read the passage before the questions that go with it. Circle the letter of the best answer, or the right word where there are no letters.

The Science Project

Amara and Kenji had been assigned to work together on the volcano project, and neither of them was happy about it.

Amara liked plans. She had already made a schedule with color-coded steps, and she wanted to start building on Monday. Kenji, she thought, was going to slow everything down. He never wrote anything in his planner. He probably did not own a planner.

Kenji liked to experiment. He had three ideas for making the eruption more realistic, and he wanted to test them all before deciding. Amara, he thought, was going to turn the whole thing into a worksheet. She would want everything decided before they even started.

On Monday, Amara arrived with her schedule. Kenji arrived with a bag of baking soda, three kinds of vinegar, and red food coloring.

They stared at each other.

"We could test your ideas first," Amara said slowly, "and then I'll put the best one on the schedule."

Kenji blinked. "That... actually makes sense."

By Friday, they had the only volcano in the class that erupted twice. Amara had written "test ideas" on the first line of her next schedule. Kenji had bought a planner. It had a dinosaur on the cover, and he used it exactly once, but it was a start.

1. **From what point of view is this story told?**

   A. Third person, with a narrator who knows both characters' thoughts
   B. First person, told by Kenji about his partner
   C. Second person, with the narrator talking to you
   D. First person, told by Amara about her partner

2. **How does knowing both characters' thoughts help the reader?**

   A. It explains how volcanoes work
   B. It tells us who is right
   C. It makes the story shorter
   D. It shows that each one misjudged the other

Point of view worksheet

5th grade reading · questions, continued

Questions about “The Science Project”, continued

3. **What did Amara think about Kenji at first?**

   A. He was a great planner
   B. He would slow things down
   C. He was her best friend
   D. He knew everything about volcanoes

4. **How would the story be different if only Kenji told it?**

   A. We would not know Amara's worries about him
   B. Amara would not be in the story
   C. It would be in the past
   D. The volcano would not erupt

5. **True or false: A first-person narrator uses the words "I" and "me."**

   ○ **True** ○ **False**

6. **Which version of the sentence is in third person?**

   A. I could not believe we had won.
   B. Kenji could not believe they had won.
   C. You could not believe you had won.
   D. We could not believe it.

7. **True or false: A first-person narrator always knows what every other character is thinking.**

   ○ **True** ○ **False**

8. **What can the reader know in this passage that could NOT be known in first person from Jamal?**

   > Jamal thought the test had gone terribly. Across the room, his teacher was already smiling at his paper, which had the highest score in the class.

   A. That Jamal was in a room
   B. What the teacher was thinking and seeing
   C. That there was a test
   D. How Jamal felt

9. **Why might an author choose a first-person narrator who is not always honest?**

   A. To let readers figure out the truth for themselves from clues
   B. Because first person is easier to write
   C. To avoid using names
   D. To make the story shorter

10. **How would this scene change if it were told from the cat's point of view?**

    > Zoe sighed as the cat knocked her pencil off the desk for the fifth time. "You are impossible," she said. The cat blinked slowly and purred.

    A. The pencil would not fall, because the cat would be asleep the whole time
    B. We would learn the cat's reasons, maybe that it wants attention or thinks it is a game
    C. Zoe would not be in the scene at all, because only the cat could tell it
    D. The story would jump to the future and tell what happens next week

Answer key: Point of view

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1. **A. Third person, with a narrator who knows both characters' thoughts**
   The narrator uses "she" and "he" and tells us what both Amara and Kenji think.
2. **D. It shows that each one misjudged the other**
   We see that each assumed the worst about the other, which neither character could see.
3. **B. He would slow things down**
   The narrator tells us she thought he would slow everything down.
4. **A. We would not know Amara's worries about him**
   In first person from Kenji, we would only know his thoughts, not Amara's.
5. **True**
   First-person narrators tell the story as "I."
6. **B. Kenji could not believe they had won.**
   The Kenji sentence uses a name and "they," so it is third person.
7. **False**
   A first-person narrator only knows their own thoughts and what they can observe.
8. **B. What the teacher was thinking and seeing**
   Only a third-person narrator can reveal the teacher's reaction while Jamal still worries.
9. **A. To let readers figure out the truth for themselves from clues**
   An unreliable narrator makes readers think carefully and notice what the narrator is not saying.
10. **B. We would learn the cat's reasons, maybe that it wants attention or thinks it is a game**
    From the cat's side we would understand its motives, which look like mischief from Zoe's view.