

Dual Narrative

Dual narrative is the technique of telling a story from two points of view.

Generally, a story is told from either first person perspective or third person.

First person is considered to be more intimate and personal. The reader is aware of the character's innermost thoughts and feelings. Equally, the information is biased.

Third person tells the story as though from a bystander who is observing the events. Through language choices, the writer can influence the reader, but this narrative is likely to be more impartial. Sometimes, the third person narrator is omniscient, where they are all seeing and aware of things that the characters don't know themselves.

Whether you create a dual narrative using two first person narrators or a first and a third, it is important to create a **narrative voice**. This means that by the style of your writing, the reader should be able to tell who is telling the story.

Narrative voice can be created in the following ways:

- Vocabulary
- Accent
- Sentence structure
- Tone
- Use of conversation / interaction with other characters

Other ways to differentiate between narrators...

Writers of young adult fiction often use multiple first person narrators to tell their stories e.g. Melvin Burgess, Malorie Blackman etc. This helps the reader engage with the character but also forces the reader to fill in the gaps between the characters; thus providing more interest. They try not to have the characters reveal everything directly to the reader.

These writers often use the name of the character as a chapter heading. Sometimes they use a different font to distinguish between the characters as well as employing the language techniques discussed earlier.

Look at the two extracts you have been given:

Explore and analyse language

1. What do we learn about the character from the first passage?
Consider actual details as well as what the language reveals about the character.
2. What do we learn about the character from the second passage?
3. How has the writer used first person to create setting and character?
4. How are the *voices* of each character different?

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