

Narrative "Voice" Notes and Activity

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Discussion Questions

When we read a book or watch a film, whose "voice" is telling us the story? The character or the composer (director/author)?

How much of what we get out of a film or book is influenced by who we are and what our interests are, what our background is - our personal context?

Context and Us

Every time you hear/read/view anything, there is a set of circumstances influencing your interpretation, and therefore, the meaning of a text to you. Because all readers are different, no text has concrete meaning.

We all have different factors in our lives that create our own context. It is the reason why we go to see a movie with a group of friends and some people love it and others hate it. It's why we like different music to our parents or different books to our big brothers or sisters.

- What is YOUR personal context? What influences your life to create your context?
- Consider you family, friends, religion, ethnic background, socio-economic influences, where you grew up, your values...

What is Narrative Voice?

- Voice is the author's style, the quality that makes his or her writing unique, and which conveys the author's attitude, personality, and character.

BUT

Narrative voice is influenced by three things:

1. The composer
2. The characters in the text
3. Us - how we feel about the character and how our own opinions are influenced by the text

Why is narrative voice important in texts?

- Voice indicates perspective, it is how a composer can raise awareness of an issue in responders, voice can be a composer's actual opinion or it can be purely imagined. Narrative voice can create emotions or reveal how the composer really feels about an issue.

Narrative Voice Activity

Watch trailer for "The 100" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCWuEjXcZfo>

1. Why does the director use voiceover narration in this trailer?
2. Does the voiceover give us more or less insight into the story? Explain your answer.
3. If you were writing a story would voiceover narration be more like writing in FIRST or THIRD person? Why?

Watch opening scenes from "Clueless" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yx70THjTvU>

1. Whose "voice" is telling us the story in this clip? What film technique has been used to achieve this?
2. How has the protagonist (main character) been portrayed in this clip?
3. What opinion/perspective do WE form about the protagonist? Why?