

“The Tell-Tale Heart”
Point of View Analysis

Determine why Poe chose the 1st person point of view that he did for “The Tell-Tale Heart.” First determine why he may have chosen NOT to use certain perspectives.

-If he’d chosen 3rd person omniscient:

- What more could the narrator know/tell the reader?
- In a **single** word (for example: humor, romance, excitement, etc.) What would the story lose as a result of that additional knowledge?
- Why would it lose that due to the additional knowledge of the narrator?

-If he’d chosen 3rd person limited:

- What more could the narrator know/tell the reader?
- What less could the narrator know/tell the reader?
- In a **single** word (for example: humor, romance, excitement, etc.) What would the story lose as a result of that additional knowledge?
- Why would it lose that due to the additional knowledge of the narrator?

Now determine why he did ultimately decided to use the point of view that he did.

-1st person:

- What does the story gain from using this perspective? (Helpful tip: Think of the gains as being the things it didn’t lose. For example, if I do A but lose X, or if I do B but lose Y, by doing C, I ultimately “gain” X and Y by not losing them. As a result, this should be a **one to two word** answer.)
- How/why does 1st person help to create this gain?
- Find and write a quote of narration in the story (NOT dialogue alone) that shows the point of view of 1st person. Be sure to cite the quote correctly.
- Explain how this quote shows the “gain/gains” that you said 1st person creates.