

“An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge”
Ambrose Bierce

Name _____

Review the different types of narrative perspective (point of view):

1st person-

3rd person-

Objective-

Limited-

Omniscient-

Answer each of the following questions in your group.

PART I:

In what point of view does the narrator begin the story?

At what point exactly (find the line) does the author shift to a new point of view? How do you know? To which point of view does he shift?

PART II:

Part II breaks the chronology of the story. From what narrative perspective is it written?

How does the point of view in this section contribute to a deeper understanding of the story?

PART III:

From what narrative perspective is the majority of this section written?

At what point does it shift again? From what point of view is the final part of the story told?

Final Thoughts:

How does this story reveal Bierce’s scorn for sentimental illusions? (Note: Bierce was a Realist writer, meaning he rejected romanticized notions and embraced true-to-life descriptions of people and circumstances.)