

# Significance of narrators essay



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Furthermore, the militancy in his voice is demonstrated through the assertive choice of verb "to command" and also further reflected in his short and abrupt and segmented sentence structure. At this point, the narrative returns us to the present, as the Duke appears to swiftly onto the next topic; his next wife, creating a particularly dangerous and psychopathic character. In contrast a seemingly passive narrator is presented in 'Porphyry's Lover', with his twisted reflection on the situation being prevalently more dominant, adding to the alarm of ambiguity about his character.

Alternatively, his narration follows his internal thoughts as he "debated" and "listened". F. Scott Fitzgerald Nick Carraway, the Great Gatsby narrator, has a crucial role in the novel - acting as not only the voice, but also as a participant.

His ideal perspective is a well-calculated device by Fitzgerald allowing him to act as a 'fly-on-the-wall'. Many critics have suggested Nick plays the role of the chorus in Ancient Tragedy, becoming the link between the reader and Gatsby. Although connected - he maintains distance, never coming too directly involved allowing him to drift between characters and situations.

It appears his wish is to "to look squarely at every one and yet to avoid all eyes" perhaps lacking the emotional attachment of looking in their "eyes" and yet being able to watch.

Pressure is placed on Nick's visual perceptions, with Fitzgerald allowing the reader to infer the extent to which we trust Nick to be objective in his storytelling. As a narrator, Nick places emphasis on his positive qualities of "

tolerance” and “reserving judgments”; attempting to portray an honest man, who we all hope will accurately dictate Gatsby's story.

In addition his use of a diverse vocabulary and manners suggests a well-educated background and this may be an important factor in our judgment of his validity. Conversely, he also uses colloquial more natural and honest flow of speech. In addition, many would review his narration as compelling, however it is interesting to the point to which we believe his account to be reliable and unbiased.

His reliance on memory to tell the story, having experienced it two years after the events had taken place suggests there may be a lack of detail; we must establish if the details are important in such a novel.

Within Nick's self-reflective style as a conscious narrator he is able to select and determine the structure in which events are presented to the reader. For instance, the way in which he introduces Gatsby to the reader in sections, with the air of mystery, piquing the reader's interest of this ambiguous character. Suspicion can also be found perhaps in Nick's blatantly parochial attitude, illustrated when he explains that life is best “looked at from a single window”. Perhaps, this ironically takes away from the impressiveness of

Gatsby, as we begin to wonder if he may not be evaluating the whole picture, perhaps even sacrificing truth and accuracy for the sake of simplicity.

This is typified when Nick immediately believes “ it was all true” upon being shown Gatsby medal - does this suggest his naivety or his ignorance of the details to make his tale more exciting? An additional aspect to be considered is Fitzgerald use of a retrospective narration, enabling him to tell the story of Gatsby life after it has all ended. Nick presents the setting of a framed narrative during Chapter one, giving Gatsby death a retrained quality - making it seem almost inescapable.

Gatsby life is displayed as remaining relatively unfathomable, yet Nick is a good observer and makes his own conclusions. His commentary is littered with tidbits of social analysis, for example when he leaves the Buchannan dinner party feeling “ confused and a little disgusted” as he drove away. With every object, covered in symbolism, it could be argued that Nicks narration is crucial in presenting Fitzgerald social and political message on society. Ian Mclean Key to Means’s generation of suspense in the novel is his use of first-person oration, which acts as Joe Rose’s interior monologue allowing him to verbalize his thoughts.

Through his confused state of mind after the tragic balloon incident, Joe falls back on his scientific knowledge to relentlessly endeavor to rationalize these past events and provide a more unified account to the reader. This limited perspective is emphasized through his use of scientific lexis in fact this is illustrated when Joe somewhat cryptically adds that the “ best description of reality does not need to mimic it’s velocity’. These applications of critical thinking to emotionally unsettling instances, present Joey’s narration, as one we can trust and believe is reliable.

Equally important in Joey's thoughts is his manipulation of events, retrospectively, as during the balloon incident when..

. Subsequently, it allows Joe to provide the reader with extra details, he even references "knowing what I know now" giving an almost omniscient view over the story. Some may argue that this may make him seem biased towards the unraveling of whose is the true perspective. Furthermore, reliability of his narration is seemingly questioned as he allows us into his own doubt, which is expressed when he says "I seemed to be remembering an underwater event".

In addition this allows Mclean to build up the significance of what is about to happen and yet still leave ambiguity. As our trust of Joey's sequence of events is a key motif throughout the book. A center of consciousness, Joe Rose Centre of consciousness Unattractive technique First person - distorted, one person's view Major narrative device in post-modern novels An article on which Rose is working allows him to reflect on the negative impact of narrative form on the structure of scientific knowledge: the power and attraction of narrative clouded Judgment' (Chi. 4, p. 1) Multiple perspectives Jean Logan No actual proof her husbands having an affair - constructed from the rose water Rose symbolizes Does the reader trust her? Unreliable narrator Joe Rose's knowledge, self-knowledge, veracity and self-delusion all come under scrutiny "Knowing what I know now, it's odd to evoke the figure of Jed Parry.

.. " Usually the author who ' evokes' characters, Joe is creating his own story here -> unattractive quinine (writing about the process of writing) Distortion

of events - symbolic pattern of lenses, water and prisms -> distort the truth  
E. . Hubble telescope in chapter 4 Lens could be corrected by science  
science can correct others views, however reality can even be distorted by it  
Each has their own lens on each other and life how the conflict occurs Linked  
to this idea of Joe as a storyteller who may distort events is the symbolic  
pattern of lenses, water and prisms as things which distort the truth.

When Joe talks about the Hubble telescope in Chapter 4, it is highly significant.

The lens of the telescope could be corrected by science, ' The mistake was put right, the twelve-billion-year old pictures came true and sharp. ' This symbolizes how science can correct others' views, but reality can be distorted even by the lens of stalking by Jed. All three main characters have their own ' lens' on life: Joey's is the lens of science, Calamari's is that of the Arts and Jed sees things distorted through the lens of his disease, De Secularist's syndrome.

The conflicts in the novel stem from being in ' different mental universes. '  
Samuel Coleridge