

Point of View in Expository Nonfiction: An Activity

After reading aloud portions of *The Most Amazing Creature in the Sea* by Brenda Z. Guiberson, *Bone by Bone* by Sara Levine, and *Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature* by Joyce Sidman, introduce your students to the characteristics of first-, second-, and third-person narration and guide them in determining which of the three titles you just read features each type of narration.



After organizing the class into small groups, give each team a packet of sticky notes and three to five expository books with various points of view. Here are some suggestions:

- I, Fly* by Bridget Heos
- Creature Features* by Steve Jenkins
- If You Hopped Like a Frog* by David Schwartz
- Never Smile at a Monkey* by Steve Jenkins
- Pink Is for Blobfish* by Jess Keating
- Can an Aardvark Bark?* by Melissa Stewart

Then invite students to classify the books by point of view and label each one with a sticky note.

When the teams complete this task, encourage each group to rotate to a different table, leaving their books behind. Students should review the books at their new table and discuss how the previous group classified the books. If they disagree with the previous group, they should add a second sticky note explaining their rationale.

Repeat this process until each group has reviewed all the books. Then have a brief class discussion about books that have multiple sticky notes on them.

CCSS.ELA—Literacy.CCRA.R.6: Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text

Answers:

First-person—*The Most Amazing Creature in the Sea* by Brenda Z. Guiberson I, *Fly* by Bridget Heos, *Creature Features* by Steve Jenkins

Second-person—*Bone by Bone* by Sara Levine, *If You Hopped Like a Frog* by David Schwartz, *Never Smile at a Monkey* by Steve Jenkins

Third-person—*Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature* by Joyce Sidman, *Pink Is for Blobfish* by Jess Keating, *Can an Aardvark Bark?* by Melissa Stewart

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