

Narrator - reliability and focalization



Name:

Date:



Youtube: Who Can You Trust? Unreliable Narrators (Feat. Lindsay Ellis) | It's Lit! | PBS Digital Studios

To watch the youtube video just scan the QR code.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AM7pALSwH_I

Watch the video and decide if the statements are true or false.

An unreliable narrator is always intentionally deceiving the audience.

☐ True ☐ False

Unreliable narrators have been present in literature since ancient Greek and Roman plays.

☐ True ☐ False

Forrest Gump's narration of historical events is considered accurate and unbiased.

☐ True ☐ False

The narrator in 'The Tell-Tale Heart' is convinced he can hear the heartbeat of his murdered roommate.

☐ True ☐ False

The narrator in 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' has autism, leading to a unique storytelling perspective.

☐ True ☐ False

In 'Gone Girl', both narrators are found to be trustworthy and reliable by the end of the story.

☐ True ☐ False

Unreliable narrators challenge readers to question the perspectives and biases presented in a story.

☐ True ☐ False

Readers should always trust the narrating self in their own consciousness as the ultimate truth.

☐ True ☐ False

Complete the sentences by dragging the words into the correct panels.

Focalization, a narrative concept coined by French literary theorist Gerard Genette, is a pivotal tool employed in _____ literature. It enables the unfolding of unique perspectives that are often non-human, hence fostering a sense of _____ and _____, crucial characteristics of this genre.

Isaac Asimov's "The Last Question" forms an impeccable example of this concept in action. In this work, the narrative is presented through the lens of an evolving supercomputer, offering a distinct outlook on mankind's progress and subsequent decline. This form of focalization generates a sense of _____, underscoring the _____ of human civilization.

Stanislaw Lem's "Solaris" presents another fascinating example where a human psychologist studying an alien ocean-planet conveys the narrative. This _____ through the psychologist amplifies the _____ of human comprehension when faced with unfamiliar intelligence. Readers share the protagonist's frustration and bewilderment, enhancing the emotional impact of the tale.

Focalization is not merely employed to create a sense of foreignness but also cultivates _____ and _____. Philip K. Dick's "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?" narrates the story through a bounty hunter tasked with identifying and 'retiring' androids. Here, the readers only know as much as the character, augmenting the sense of uncertainty and tension. This focalization also serves to question the very nature of _____ and _____, both of which form the central themes of the novel.

In Frank Herbert's "Dune", the focalization oscillates between varied characters, offering multiple _____ on the events of the story. This shifting focalization constructs a complex narrative architecture, mirroring the intricate political and social dynamics of the novel's universe. It also enables a more comprehensive exploration of the novel's themes, such as _____ and _____.

In conclusion, focalization stands as an influential narrative tool used robustly in science fiction. It enables authors to deliver unique viewpoints, challenge reader assumptions, and deepen the thematic exploration, thereby contributing to the _____ and _____ of science fiction literature. Understanding focalization hence becomes integral to fully appreciate the nuances of this genre.

science fiction, destiny, detachment, empathy, mystery, focalization, limitations, richness, transience, depth, perspectives, power, alienation, suspense, humanity, estrangement