

Sample: How does changing the point of view of "The Three Little Pigs" affect the story?

The story of The Three Little Pigs is originally told from the third limited point of view, but in "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs" when author Jon Scieszka changes the point of view to first person from the wolf's perspective, the characters' motivations, their roles, and the theme of the story change. In the original story the narrator is able to tell the reader the pigs' goals and motivations directly. The mother pig has forced the pigs out on their own because "there was not enough food to feed them."

(<https://americanliterature.com/childrens-stories/the-three-little-pigs>) The first two pigs choose inappropriate building materials because they are "lazy" but the third pig "worked hard." However, since JS's version of the story is from the wolf's point of view, the reader can only know what the wolf knows. He assumes the pigs are just stupid. Likewise the switch in point of view also changes the wolf's goal and motivation. In the original story the narrator tells the reader the wolf "thought the pig would make a mighty fine meal."

(<https://americanliterature.com/childrens-stories/the-three-little-pigs>) On the other hand, because "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs" is from the wolf's perspective, he is able to tell the reader that he only wanted to borrow some sugar for his granny's birthday cake. Unfortunately, when he went to their houses he had a cold and accidentally blew them down with a sneeze. After he blows the house down and kills the first pig, he says, "It seemed a shame to leave a perfectly good ham dinner lying there" (Scieszka 15) He never intended to eat them; he just didn't want to be wasteful when he accidentally killed them! As a result of the change in motivation, the characters' roles also change. In Scieszka's version, the wolf becomes the protagonist, instead of the antagonist, because he has a chance to share a more sympathetic motivation. It's much easier to root for a character who wants to bake his Granny a cake rather than one who wants to eat his neighbors. Meanwhile the pigs become the antagonists because they wouldn't share any sugar and the last pig insults the wolf's granny! Furthermore, the theme also changes. The original story suggests that it's important to work hard and not take shortcuts. In contrast Scieszka's version never reveals that the pigs had been lazy. The wolf only gets in trouble at the house made of brick because he loses his temper and goes berserk when the pig insults his granny. This suggests a different theme: Try not to lose your temper or you may face consequences. With one small change to a classic tale, Scieszka is able to write a brand new story!

Topic:

How does changing the point of view of the 3 Little Pigs affect the story?

Name:

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Main Idea:

### Paragraph Diagram

1. Topic Sentence

The change in point of view affects characters' goal + motivation, roles and theme

2. Details

1 Pigs' goal + motivations change  
Follow-up Explanation: Original = lazy, Scieszka = stupid

4. Order

2 Wolf's goal + motivation changes  
Follow-up Explanation: Wants sugar, blowing down house accident

3 Antagonist + protagonist swap  
Follow-up Explanation: Wolf becomes protagonist because he's sympathetic

4 Theme changes because wolf loses temper  
Follow-up Explanation: Original = work hard, Scieszka = don't lose temper

8. Concluding "So What" Sentence

With one small change he has written a new story!

3.	Structure description, sequence, cause/effect, problem/ solution, compare/contrast	5. Transitions
6.	POV 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7. Tense Past Present Future

In original  
Likewise  
~~However same~~

As a result