

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Point of View

Read the short story and answer each question.



Ashes on the Wind

The morning we left the farm, I didn't cry. Not when we packed the wagon. Not when Mama kissed the front porch beam. Not even when the dog barked and chased us halfway down the lane.

But I did cry later—quietly—when Papa wasn't looking and the prairie stretched wide and strange like a story I didn't know how to read.

The Dust Bowl stole our crops one windstorm at a time. I used to think the dust had a voice, whispering "gone" with every gust. Now, our whole town was blowing east.

Papa tried to stay cheerful. "California's got work and oranges the size of your head."

But I didn't care about oranges. I cared about the place where my treehouse leaned against the cottonwood, where my friend Etta buried a time capsule in a mason jar.

I miss the sound of morning eggs cracking in Mama's skillet. I miss Etta's laugh.

But today, we passed a roadside camp. Another girl waved at me. She looked tired, but she smiled.

I smiled back. Maybe her story was blowing west, and mine was blowing east.

Maybe they'd meet somewhere in between.



Name: _____

Ashes on the Wind

1. How does the narrator's point of view affect how we understand the story?

- A. It gives emotional insight into how a child feels during a time of loss and change.
- B. It explains historical facts without any personal feelings.
- C. It describes the events from a distant observer's point of view.
- D. It focuses only on Papa's journey and thoughts.

2. What effect does the first-person perspective have on how the Dust Bowl is described?

- A. It helps us understand the science behind dust storms.
- B. It shares how people in the government felt during that time.
- C. It makes the experience feel personal and filled with specific memories.
- D. It avoids emotional language and focuses on travel details.

3. Fill in the blank:

The narrator compares the prairie to a _____ she didn't know how to read.

4. How would the tone and emotion of the story change if it were told in third person?

5. What do we learn about the narrator's hopes and fears because of her point of view?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: V

Lexile Level: 950L-1100L

Grade Level: 5th Grade, End of the Year

Genre: Historical Fiction – First-Person Narrative

Introducing the Text

“This story is told in the first person by a young girl during the Dust Bowl. As you read, notice how her thoughts, feelings, and voice shape how we understand the events. Think about how the narrator’s perspective adds emotional depth to a moment in history.”

Vocabulary: Dust Bowl, prairie, gust, mason jar, capsule

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about how point of view can shape a story’s tone?
 2. What do you expect to learn in a historical fiction story?
 3. How might a child narrator view historical events differently from an adult?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What details show how the narrator feels about leaving her home?
 2. How do her memories and observations help create mood and tone?
 3. What do her descriptions of other people show about her character?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the narrator’s point of view influence how the reader feels about the Dust Bowl?
 2. What specific language shows us that this story is deeply personal?
 3. How would the story change if it were told by Papa instead?
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Activity Idea

Have students write a short journal entry from the perspective of someone else in the story—Papa, Mama, or the girl by the road. This encourages thinking about how voice and point of view change storytelling.

