

LITERARY ANALYSIS: THIRD-PERSON POINT OF VIEW

When a story is told from the **third-person point of view**, the **narrator** is not a character in the story but is observing from the outside. Because of this, the third-person narrator is often able to reveal more information about all the characters' thoughts, feelings, and actions than any single character from the story could reveal.

As you read "The Ghost of the Lagoon," look for details the narrator provides about the main character.

READING STRATEGY: PREDICT

Writers often give their readers clues to help them **predict**, or make a reasonable guess about, what might happen in a story. As a reader, you combine details from the story with your own knowledge and experience to help you make predictions about what you are reading.

As you read, use a chart like the one shown to write down your predictions and the clues from the story that helped you make them.

<i>My Prediction</i>	<i>Clues in Story</i>
<i>Mako will use his harpoon during the story.</i>	<i>Mako is clever, the harpoon he made is sharp and has five iron spears.</i>

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

Armstrong Sperry uses the boldfaced words to help tell an adventure story. Use context clues to figure out the meaning of each of the boldfaced words.

1. The boy ran off in **pursuit** of a frightening sea creature.
2. It had always made the calm, watery **lagoon** its home.
3. Creatures would sometimes hide in gaps in the **reef**.
4. The hunter was feeling **tense** from stress.
5. Mako had spent a **restless** night worrying.
6. He felt very **vulnerable** in his small, flimsy boat.

Story Lover As a boy growing up in Connecticut, Armstrong Sperry loved listening to his grandfather's wonderful tales of the South Sea Islands. In 1925, after studying art in college and working as an illustrator, Sperry headed to the South Pacific. He spent several months on the island of Bora Bora, charmed by the island's beauty and culture. He was inspired by its brave people, who rebuilt their island after it was destroyed by a hurricane during Sperry's time there.



Armstrong Sperry
1897–1976

World Traveler Sperry returned to the United States and settled in Vermont, but he couldn't resist going back to sea. He set sail again, traveling the world in search of ideas for stories. The books and stories Sperry wrote often have characters who, like the people of Bora Bora, overcome a great challenge with strength and courage.



MORE ABOUT THE AUTHOR

For more on Armstrong Sperry, visit the Literature Center at ClassZone.com.

Background

Pacific Island Bora Bora, where this story takes place, is one of more than 100 small islands in French Polynesia in the southern Pacific Ocean. The island is almost completely surrounded by coral reefs and is known for the crystal clear waters of its lagoon.