Point of View

First person: I/We • Second person: You/You all • Third person: He/She/It/They

**Levels of Immersion**
From Orson Scott Card’s *Characters and Viewpoint*:

- Omniscient – The reader sees all the characters do and think, but from a single, different, narrator’s perspective (i.e., not from one of the character’s viewpoints).
- Cinematic – The reader observes the characters, as in a movie (i.e., no narrator interjection or judgement).
- Limited light penetration – The reader sees into the viewpoint character’s mind, but does not experience the scene as the character, but filtered through a narrator.
- Limited deep penetration – The reader experiences the scene as the character does.

**Deep Third Person**

“First person narrators can be unreliable. They can leave out information, minimize it. They can lie to the reader. Deep third person narrators cannot lie to the reader. They can lie to themselves, yes... but the reader should and will see through those lies, if the author is truly writing in Deep POV.” -Ann Laurel Kopchik

**Filtering**

Filtering is interpreting the character’s perspective through a narrator, which creates any type of frame through which we read or perceive the character’s experiences.

Watch out for filtering phrases like:
- he noticed
- she felt
- she saw
- he heard
- she remembered
- he knew
- she looked
- he decided
- he thought
- she wondered

“Watch for any words that have the reader watching the character have an experience, rather than experiencing it through the character.” –Ann Laurel Kopchik