

A **narrator** is the person that tells a story. The narrator can be a character in the story, or he or she can be watching the story unfold from the outside. When the narrator is telling the story from the outside, and describing the characters in the story using words like *he*, *she* and *they*, the narrative is said to be in **third person**. For example, the passage below is the opening of the novel *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London:

Buck did not read the newspapers, or he would have known that trouble was brewing, not alone for himself, but for every tide-water dog, strong of muscle and with warm, long hair, from Puget Sound to San Diego. Because men, groping in the Arctic darkness, had found a yellow metal, and because steamship and transportation companies were booming the find, thousands of men were rushing into the Northland. These men wanted dogs, and the dogs they wanted were heavy dogs, with strong muscles by which to toil, and furry coats to protect them from the frost.

1. Who do you think is going to be the main point of view character in the story? Is the character a human? How do you know?
2. What is the context for the story?
3. What kind of story do you think this is going to be? Why?
4. Think about a story that you would like to write. On a separate piece of paper, write the opening of the story as a **third person narrative**. Establish the context of the story and introduce the main character, using the passage above as a model.