

Deeper POV

By Tim Shoemaker

FIVE THINGS to CONSIDER to HELP YOU WRITE IN A DEEPER POV that is CONSISTANT and TRUE to your POV CHARACTER

1. PERSPECTIVE -What is the perspective of my character? How does he see THINGS? How does he see LIFE? He likely sees things in a very SUBJECTIVE WAY... not objective. So we must be careful not to open scenes in too much of an objective way when our POV character is not objective at all.

2. PERSONALITY -His approach to things—the way he WALKS INTO A ROOM... his REACTIONS... the way he TALKS...his INTERNAL THOUGHTS should REFLECT his PERSONALITY.

3. PRIORITIES -What does he WANT RIGHT NOW at this moment? What is he FOCUSED ON? Everything you write must run in perfect tandem with his priorities... what he wants at this moment. Don't add any other details.

4. PREDISPOSITION -What kind of mood is he in JUST BEFORE the scene opens? How can I show that or be true to his predisposition as the scene opens?

5. PANDORA'S BOX -What is his or her PERSONAL PANDORA'S BOX? What are they AFRAID WILL GET OUT and cause them ALL KINDS of TROUBLE? When appropriate, this needs to surface... a FLEETING THOUGHT he shoves down into the box again.

FOUR AREAS to specifically look at to DEEPEN POV in your manuscript

1. DESCRIPTION... of people... of places. Only describe it as the POV character sees it in their FRAME of MIND at THAT MOMENT. If the details are NOT NOTICED or IMPORTANT to the POV character AT THIS MOMENT... it is not important. Period.

2. BACKSTORY -Another place we can slip out of deep POV and give details we need the reader to get. If you write smart, you can get the backstory in and do it in their POV.

3. DIALOGUE -We bring in deep POV in several ways...
The WAY our POV person says things (their personality)
The THINGS our POV person says (their perspective)
The BIG THING on his mind at the moment (their priority)
The ATTITUDE or MOOD they convey (their predisposition)
The WAY THEY HEDGE or COVER UP (avoiding Pandora's box)

4. INTERIOR DIALOGUE -The interior dialogue should reflect their personality, priorities, perspective, etc.—and *all in an UNINHIBITED WAY*.

“There are NO FILTERS in interior dialogue. None.” Tim Shoemaker

If 2 people are in a conversation—there are 3 dialogue exchanges going on.

1.What POV person says. 2.What other person says. 3.What POV person thinks.

ONE THING to CONSIDER for AUTHENTIC, DEEP POV WRITING

If you're writing for MIDDLE GRADE and YA...*your perspective of kids* can be something that can HURT your ability to write deep POV in an authentic, convincing way. If you think of kids as relatively STUPID...as *not thinking*... your writing will take on the *tone of a parent*. You'll *talk down to them*. You'll tend to *OVER EXPLAIN things* to the point of being really obvious—*because you don't think kids will get it if you don't*.

Here's how I think of kids... They're just about AS SMART AS ME... *and smarter in some ways*. BUT they're MORE IMPULSIVE and their JUDGMENT isn't always so good...so they make BAD DECISIONS as a result. They are smart... but *not nearly as EXPERIENCED as I am*. They *lack wisdom*.

Here are some QUESTIONS to CONSIDER as you look at your scene.

RIGHT NOW... AT THIS MOMENT in the story...

1. What is the predisposition of your character before the scene opens?

Have you reflected that mood somehow in the scene?

2. What is the one thing your POV character...

-is WORRIED about?

-is FOCUSED on?

-wants REALLY BAD?

-doesn't want others to FIND OUT?

Have I shown that (*by using dialogue, interior thought, body language, what they notice in the room or about others in the room, etc.*) in a way that is consistent with their perspective, personality, etc.? Can I ratchet this up a notch?

3. How am I showing (not telling) my character's personality in this scene?

(*by using dialogue, interior thought, body language, what they notice in the room or about others in the room, etc.*) Can I ratchet it up a notch?

4. Am I giving any information, description, or any details in this scene for the benefit of the reader, but it is not something my POV character would notice at this moment... in their mindset?

If so... CHANGE IT to be consistent with my POV character or CUT IT.