

DEEP POINT OF VIEW:

1. Eliminates the writer from the page.
3. Doesn't name character emotions but allows them to be experienced as physical/visceral sensations.
4. Generally eliminates phrases of discernment.
5. Employs speech tags only as often as is necessary to help the reader track the speakers in a conversation.
6. Makes use of inner dialogue that is natural and deeply authentic to the viewpoint character.
7. Makes abundant use of concrete, sensory detail.
8. Filters observations, actions, and responses through character emotion.
9. Employs language based not on the WRITER'S background, experiences, and level of education but based on those of the narrating character.
10. Employs language consistent with a character's emotional state.
11. Limits the number of viewpoints to those characters whose perspectives and experiences are TRULY critical to the reader's experience of a novel.
12. Keeps us absolutely rooted in ONLY what a viewpoint character would be able to observe and feel in a scene.
13. Takes into consideration that a character will view the world and circumstances through the lens of not only his or her life experiences but of his or her passions, occupations, etc.
14. Makes use of sharp, singular detail. Hones in on the unique and unexpected, again as a function of being deeply inside the viewpoint character's psyche.

15. Sustains a feeling of deep experience, emotion, and IMMERSION throughout an entire novel. Pulls us into the fictive dream right away and keeps us there until the very end.

HOMEWORK:

1. Rework the first few pages of your opening scene, with attention to the above. Define the viewpoint character's dominant emotions and ask yourself whether everything that unfolds in that scene is true to that emotion and to the character's experiences, level of education, background, etc.

Pay special attention to issues such as self-narration, lack of bodily responses and a deficit of singular, interesting observations. GO DEEPER.

OR:

2. Rewrite a scene from your novel from the deep point of view of the character in opposition to your protagonist. Help us see your protagonist through the emotional lens of another character, through that other character's background and experiences. How does the tone of the scene change? How does your opposing character FEEL about your protagonist? GO DEEPER. 😊