

An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge

What thoughts would go through someone's mind right before they die? Write down what you think that people would imagine if they knew they would die soon.

Write at least 5 sentences to get full credit!



Ambrose Bierce



Read through the article about Ambrose Bierce. Then, underneath your quickwrite, respond to the following prompt in 3-4 sentences:

Using your knowledge about Bierce, make a prediction - what do you think “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge” will be about? What kind of topics and themes do you think it might deal with?

Point of View

Omniscient, in which the narrator seems to know everything about all the characters and events.

Example: “Harry had taken up his place at wizard school, where he and his scar were famous ... but now the school year was over, and he was back with the Dursleys for the summer, back to being treated like a dog that had rolled in something smelly ... The Dursleys hadn’t even remembered that today happened to be Harry’s twelfth birthday. Of course, his hopes hadn’t been high?”

Point of View

Objective, in which the narrator reports without comment, describing things in a detached way (like a camera recording a scene)

Example: John laughed hollowly. “You’re joking,” he said. The neon light flickered on his face, turning it a ghastly yellow.

Veronica shook her head slowly. Her fingers were busy shredding her tear-stained paper tissue. “I’m not joking. It’s all true.”

Point of View

Third-Person Limited, in which the narrator zooms in on the thoughts or feelings of single character.

Example: Inspector Garrard watched the man behind the counter serving a customer. His movements were quick, almost agitated. As he approached he saw the man's eyes flick to his chest, as though looking for a telltale badge. Or was the man merely glancing down out of shyness?

Point of View

In the different sections of Bierce's story, watch for these variations in point of view:

Omniscient, in which the narrator seems to know everything about all the characters and events.

Objective, in which the narrator reports without comment, describing things in a detached way (like a camera recording a scene)

Third-Person Limited, in which the narrator zooms in on the thoughts or feelings of single character.