

Stream of consciousness

- The story comes directly through the mind(s) of the character(s);
- thus the reader is allowed to see into the protagonist's mind.
- total elimination of narrator / author
- The aim is to characterize mental states, to explore a character's consciousness.
- It imitates the psychological principle of free association, controlled by memory, senses and imagination. Shifts in time and space.
- 2 basic techniques:

a) interior monologue (or: direct interior monologue)

- first-person point of view
- present tense (or present perfect or as the mind dictates)
- elliptic language / incomplete sentences
- rhetorical questions

b) reported thought (or: indirect interior monologue)

- third-person point of view
- past tense group
- omission of introductory clauses such as "he said", "he thought" etc.
- elliptic language

What **effect** does the interior monologue have **on the reader**?

Greatest possible nearness between protagonist and reader.

Shares his innermost feelings, thoughts, dreams and fears.

Witnesses his mental state

Thus the reader is induced to identify with the protagonist.