

## Grammar and Style

### CHOOSE EFFECTIVE POINT OF VIEW

In this story, Gordimer uses a first-person narrator, one who is part of the story and uses the pronouns *I* and *we*. This narrator brings readers close to the thoughts and attitudes of one white South African during the apartheid era. Notice how Gordimer uses dashes to suggest the flow of the narrator's thoughts:

*On five pounds a month, Petrus won't have twenty pounds—and just as well, since it couldn't do the dead any good. Certainly I should not offer it to him myself. Twenty pounds—or anything else within reason, for that matter—I would have spent without grudging it on doctors or medicines that might have helped the boy when he was alive. Once he was dead, I had no intention of encouraging Petrus to throw away, on a gesture, more than he spent to clothe his whole family in a year. (lines 192–197)*

**Directions:** The following paragraph is written in the third person. Revise the paragraph, writing it in the first person and adding details as needed to create a greater sense of intimacy with the character. Use one or more dashes to indicate a shift in the character's thoughts or feelings.

She opened the window and scanned the field to check on her husband.

She saw Adam walk slowly to Petrus and then stop. He slouched on his hip and gazed distractedly into the distance. Petrus was stiff, yet energetic. He talked at length, his thin arms punching the air to emphasize key points in his story. Her husband hardly appeared to be listening. He would nod or shake his head once in while, though she could not say whether or not it was in direct response to Petrus. They were still in conversation when she shut the window and turned away.

I opened the window—it was sticky, of course—and scanned the field to make sure Adam really did talk to Petrus.