

Using Point of View to Create Suspense

DIRECTIONS: Read each of the short passages below. For each, identify the point of view. Then answer the questions.

1.

Evan trotted up the stairs and down the hall towards his bedroom. He pushed open his bedroom door and entered his room. As he did, the fugitive, hidden behind the door, stepped into the room behind him and shot him in the back.

2.

Paul waited behind the door, his body twitching every so often, his heart hammering in his chest, as he heard the quick staccato of someone's feet on the stairs. It had been supposed to be a quick job—in and out—take the cash and go. No one was supposed to have been home. Had he been set up? There was a distinct possibility. But he wasn't going back to jail. He would rather kill someone than go back to jail again.

Evan opened the bedroom door. . .

1. What point of view is being used in each passage? _____

2. Who is the point of view character in passage #1? _____

3. Who is the point of view character in passage #2? _____

4. Which passage is more suspenseful? Why? _____

5. Between the reader, Evan and Paul, who knows more? What do they know?

