

Name _____



Firsthand Burden

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Identify whether the text is written in **first-person**, **second-person**, or **third-person** point of view. Explain how the point of view shapes the way the event is told and how readers understand it. Answer the guiding questions to deepen your analysis.

Passage: Diary of a Nurse during the 1918 Influenza Pandemic (*adapted*)

"I write these words late into the night, though my eyes ache from weariness. Today I tended to twelve patients in the crowded ward, and still more arrived as the day wore on. I held the hand of a boy no older than my brother, and he whispered his last breath before the sun had set. The stench of sickness fills the air, yet I cannot abandon my duty. Sometimes I wonder if my work matters, when so many perish despite our efforts. Still, I rise each morning, determined to give comfort where I can. Perhaps one day these pages will help others understand the heavy burden we carried in these desperate times."

Guiding Questions

1. What point of view is the passage written in? Provide evidence from the text.
2. How does the chosen point of view affect the emotional tone of the passage?
3. What might be different if this same event were told in third-person point of view?
4. Why is point of view especially important in historical texts like diaries, speeches, or letters?