

THE CLOSE THIRD

UPWELLERS

WRITING CARDS

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THE CLOSE THIRD

Imagine if you could access *anyone*'s thoughts, true feelings, and memories. Even better, what if you could *give* them their inner life? Well, in creative writing, that's the close third person.

EXERCISE (5–10 MIN)

Choose a character you'd like to follow. They can be based on someone real or be completely imaginary. It could even be a stand-in for yourself or a non-human creature. Put them in a new situation: entering a building, boarding a train, etc.

- What do they observe first? Second? Sounds? Smells?
- What are they seeking or trying to avoid? What's in their way?
- What memories come up? What do they hope or fear might happen?



PROMPT (30–60 MIN)

Write a scene in close third person. Start with a character entering a new situation. Remember that you can describe them from the outside *and* show what's happening inside.