Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Point of View activity

Read the following paragraphs from Girl with a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier

My mother did not tell me they were coming. Afterwards she said she did not want me to appear nervous. I was surprised, for I thought she knew me well. Strangers would think I was calm. I did not cry as a baby. Only my mother would note the tightness along my jaw, the widening of my already wide eyes.

I was chopping vegetables in the kitchen when I heard voices outside our front door—a woman’s, bright as polished brass, and a man’s, low and dark like the wood of the table I was working on. They were the kind of voices we heard rarely in our house.
I could hear rich carpets in their voices, books and pearls and fur.

I was glad that earlier I had scrubbed the front steps so hard.

My mother’s voice—a cooking pot, a flagon—approached from the front room. They were coming to the kitchen. I pushed the leeks I had been chopping into place, then set the knife on the table, wiped my hands on my apron and pressed my lips together to smooth them.

My mother appeared in the doorway, her eyes two warnings.



1. The passage is written from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ point of view.
2. Is this passage written as though the event were happening now or as a reflection on an earlier event? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Underline the words in the paragraph that support your answer and briefly explain how they do so.
3. Fill in the chart with evidence from the passage that leads to an inference about the character. Write commentary explaining how the evidence leads to the inference. You must have at least three entries.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Evidence  | Inference |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

1. Complete this activity on your own paper. Rewrite the paragraphs again from an objective narrator’s point of view.
2. What is lost and/or gained by shifting to this point of view? Explain your answer.