

## Possible Purposes and Meaning Behind Tenses

What patterns are there in stories that use particular tenses?	What effect does tense have on a story?	What does this make us think as readers?
<b>Past tense</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is used a lot.</li> <li>Stories can take place a long time ago or recently.</li> <li>There doesn't seem to be any particular themes to these stories.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It makes the story feel more real.</li> <li>It doesn't stand out so it doesn't get distracting.</li> <li>It gives the story a sense of time (real or imagined).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stories written in the past tense might want to be taken more seriously.</li> <li>We should pay attention to what time period the story is in.</li> </ul>
<b>Present tense</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These stories seem to be about more serious topics.</li> <li>The stories seem to have a lot of important moments.</li> <li>They seem to be stories that are unique.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The story feels faster.</li> <li>We find out about events with the narrator so it can feel more surprising.</li> <li>They can be slightly less believable because readers have to believe the story is happening <i>now</i>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Readers should be aware of issues and problems that often show up in present-tense stories.</li> <li>We need to work a bit more to suspend disbelief.</li> </ul>
<b>Future tense</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These stories feel less like stories and more like descriptions.</li> <li>A lot of times they use <i>you</i> or a second-person perspective.</li> <li>These stories seem to give more activities and things for the reader to do inside and outside of the story.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These stories definitely feel more imaginary and fictional.</li> <li>The tense can make it feel like there's a stronger connection with the author, which can make the story feel more personal.</li> <li>These stories can feel gimmicky, which can be fun, but it is harder to get lost in them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We need to be aware that the author is going to ask us to interact with the story.</li> <li>When we notice the future tense it might be a signal that we are not reading a very serious story.</li> </ul>
<b>Mixed-tense use</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A lot of the time the tenses get mixed by the narrator when the narrator talks to the reader.</li> <li>Mixed tenses sometimes seem to happen when there is a change in perspective or time.</li> <li>A lot of these stories also seemed to be actively teaching lessons.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any tense seems to work if mixed with others, to make the story believable.</li> <li>The change in tense seems to be another helpful signal for when the structure or voice is changing.</li> <li>Because there is more than one tense, there is flexibility with time in storytelling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Readers should expect, when they notice a change in tense, that this is going to be a more complex story.</li> <li>A mix of tenses might also make readers prepare for more serious lessons or themes.</li> </ul>