

Prompt: How do the point of view and sentence structures within “An Angel” contribute to the atmosphere of the short story?

---

This piece, even though it is quite short in its length, still has a very distinct atmosphere throughout the story. It feels very urgent, and very personal. I think imperative could also be used to describe the atmosphere of the piece. The point of view switches from a third person style when describing the angel and how she appears to a second person style in two shorter paragraphs. This back and forth on the point of view the story is written in, draws the reader into the narrative. It's easy to just breeze through the third person parts of the story, viewing it like any other piece of writing, but the second person sprinkled in forces the reader to acknowledge and engage with the story personally by asking them to add their own experience and knowledge to the piece by saying “you’ve seen them,” and “you wouldn’t believe a thing she said if it weren’t for the wings.” Additionally, the sentence structure alternates between short and simple, and long, complex descriptions of the angel. These descriptions, not making use of traditional adjectives and instead using more romanticized descriptions of various diseases, solar phenomena, or a mushroom, contribute to the atmosphere of the piece by subverting a reader’s expectation of what a description is within a story.