

ESSAY 2: The Lieutenant's Status as First-Person Narrator in *A Time to Kill*

LENGTH: 750 words

DUE DATE: 20 November 2019

In Ennio Flaiano's 1947 *Tempo di uccidere* (*A Time to Kill*), the narrator is a lieutenant in the Italian army during its occupation in Ethiopia in 1937. **Discuss the lieutenant's status as the first-person narrator in this novel, in order to determine (1) his reliability as narrator and (2) the additional meaning that accrues in the story due its style of narration.** That is, what exists in this first-person narration that would not exist if it were told from a neutral third-person point of view and how does this add value or *affect* the story in some crucial way?

Organize your discussion around one episode in the novel, the lieutenant's interactions with one specific character, OR the lieutenant's musings on one specific theme.

Consider and/or highlight at least 2 of the following:

- A technique Flaiano engages to render the narration more or less reliable
- The time that has passed between the events and the narration and/or the narrator's possible/apparent motivation for telling his story
- How the text engages or disengages key postcolonial terms and devices [such as, 'going native', ambivalence, etc.]
- Aspects of the narration that render it particularly suspect or particularly trustworthy
- The tone of the narration
- The relationship [i.e. closeness or distance] between the author and the narrator in the story and/or in the author's own life

N.B.: As you discuss the lieutenant's narration, make sure to always make a distinction between what the narrator is doing and what the author is doing, the narrator's goals and the author's goals, the narrator's voice and the author's voice.

Underline your thesis sentence and your topic sentences in your essay.

Resources:

<https://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/>

<https://writingproject.fas.harvard.edu/pages/brief-guides-disciplines>