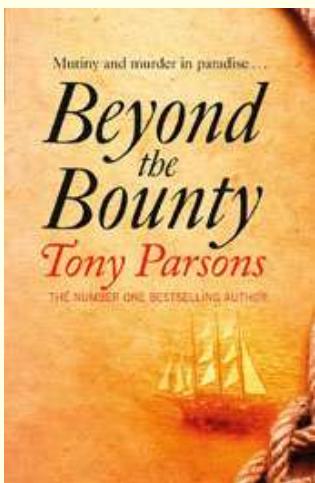


Beyond the Bounty – First-person narration



Beyond the Bounty by Tony Parsons is told from the point of view of one of the mutineers, Edward Young, known as Ned.

This is first-person narration, using 'I', or 'we', to describe one person's version of events. This form of story-telling builds a sense of intimacy as the reader experiences events through Ned's eyes.

You can listen to the first chapter on the Skillswise website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise/reading-for-pleasure/zj37cqt#zbfbwsg>

First-person narration gives the reader an insight into the narrator's thoughts.

'I held him, but I was dry-eyed. Because I had never liked Fletcher Christian.'

All events are described through the eyes of the narrator.

This means that some key events happen outside the narrator's view. At the end of the book, Ned comes round after sickness to find all the men apart from John Adams dead.

'I awoke to a changed world.'

The narrator – and the reader – don't really know what has happened and have only John Adams' word to rely on.

First person narration can be unreliable.

Some of the events that Ned recounts may not be historical fact. For example, in the book, Ned suggests that Williams, Mills and McCoy are responsible for the death of Matthew Quintal. Most historical accounts suggest that Ned Brown and John Adams killed Quintal in self-defence.

Factsheet Level 1