Point of view

Who is telling the story? This question can only really have one of three answers:

1. The narrator of the story - This corresponds to the first-person point of view.
2. The reader of the story - This is known as second-person point of view.
3. Someone else, an outsider looking in - This is what we call third-person narration or point of view.

Below you see three versions of the same story. These stories are taken from *Exercises in Style* by Raymond Queneau. Which version is told in the first, second and third person? What is the effect of telling this story differently? Fill in the table on the following page.

**Version 1**
One day, at about midday, I got onto an S bus which was nearly full. In an S bus which was nearly full there was a rather ridiculous young man. I got into the same bus as he, and this young man, having got into the same nearly full S bus before me, at about twelve noon, was wearing on his head a hat which I found highly ridiculous. I, the person who happened to be in the same bus as he, on the S line, one day, at about twelve noon.

**Version 2**
On the S bus, in the rush hour. A chap of about twenty-six, soft hat with a cord instead of a ribbon, neck too long, as if someone's been tugging at it. People getting off. The chap in question gets annoyed with one of the men standing next to him. He accuses him of jostling him every time anyone goes past. A snivelling tone which is meant to be aggressive. When he sees a vacant seat he throws himself onto it.

**Version 3**
When midday strikes you will be on the rear platform of a bus which will be crammed full of passengers amongst whom you will notice a ridiculous juvenile: skeletal neck and no ribbon on his felt hat. He won't be feeling at his ease, poor little chap. He will think that a gentleman is pushing him on purpose every time that people getting on or off pass by. He will tell him so but the gentleman won't deign to answer. And the ridiculous juvenile will be panic-stricken and run away from him in the direction of a vacant seat.
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<th>Version</th>
<th>Which point of view is used? Comment on the effects of point of view in each story</th>
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