

Verb Tense in Literature: Instructor Suggestions

Assign students the following two podcasts and ask everyone to listen to them before class.

- Using Flashbacks in Fiction
- Using Present Tense When Writing about the Past

In class, evaluate some of the literature you've read using these podcasts.

Consider placing students into groups and assigning each group one book read in the course; alternately, student groups can select the title they would like to evaluate, or each student in the class can individually evaluate one selection. After the time allotted to discussion and/or note taking, discuss the findings as a class.

Questions for Students to Consider

- What tenses are used in this work?
- Does the author use more than one tense?
- Why might this tense or these tenses have been chosen; how are they used in the work?
- Does this work and its use of tenses align or differ with what we learned in the Grammar Girl podcasts?
- How would a different tense impact this piece of literature?

Ad-free versions of the podcasts and word-for-word transcripts are available through Macmillan Learning's [Achieve](#) and [LaunchPad](#) products. To learn more about digital products and purchasing options, please visit Macmillan's [English catalog](#) or ask your sales representative.

Verb Tense in Literature: Student Instructions

Listen to the following two podcasts before class. (Remember that you can follow along on the text.)

- Using Flashbacks in Fiction
- Using Present Tense When Writing about the Past

In class, we will evaluate some of the literature you've read using ideas from these podcasts.

Questions We Will Consider

- What tenses are used in this work?
- Does the author use more than one tense?
- Why might this tense or these tenses have been chosen; how are they used in the work?
- Does this work and its use of tenses align or differ with what we learned in the Grammar Girl podcasts?
- How would a different tense impact this piece of literature?