

are revealed as he carries out his plan, rather than beforehand in scenes that would have no direct connection with events leading up to the "rubbing-out." As we'll see when we discuss *point of view*, there's almost no time when we're not viewing current actions as Mr. Martin is viewing them. Even though the story is not told by Mr. Martin directly, Thurber keeps him in the center of the stage virtually all the time.

Whatever background information Thurber might have given through a more chronological arrangement is made to come quite naturally out of the behavior we expect from a man like Mr. Martin faced with the problem he has. He has come to the point of decision. He knows that it's a question of his own survival and he has committed himself to "rubbing out" Mrs. Barrows, although he hasn't the foggiest notion of how to carry through his intentions once he's face to face with her. He has based his plan on the valid realization that no one could imagine him "rubbing out" anyone. He has spent a great many hours justifying to himself what he must do, and thus it's perfectly normal that he should review in his mind his justifications and his vague plan of action. Whatever we need to know about him, about F & S, and about Mrs. Barrows comes out effortlessly as the story moves along after the decision has been made.