

*Rashomon* investigates the method of narrating a story from different viewpoints. The same story is told from the perspective of the four different characters who are involved. Through each retelling, the viewer notices how the story is biased towards the narrator.

The premise of the story is that of a woman who gets raped by a crook. What happens next is the narrative that is in question. What is clear is that her husband gets killed, but how he gets killed is unclear. Each of the characters tells a different story about how he dies. The crook explains that he killed the husband. The woman says she kills him. The husband's spirit tells through a medium that he committed suicide. A witness to the scene finally reveals the truth.

As each version of the story unfolds, it becomes clear that it is very difficult to define what the objective truth is. Each character has a personal stake in the story and bends it to his or her interest. In the end, it is revealed that even the witness (who watched the incident from afar) hid a detail of the story because he too becomes involved in it.

The pleasures that arise from this structure is that the viewer is constantly trying to figure out what really happened. It's a mystery but instead of revealing clues, the entire story is revealed. The complication is that the stories involves more fictional elements than truths.