

The Spectator's Account of Himself Key Facts

Writer: Addison Steele | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Full Title: The Spectator's Account of Himself

Essayist: Joseph Addison (1672–1719)

Famous For: Co-founder of The Spectator periodical; leading essayist of the 18th century

Literary Type: Periodical Essay / Personal Essay

Published In: The Spectator, No. 1

First Published: March 1, 1711

Main Character: The Spectator (an anonymous observer, narrator)

Genre: Essay, Periodical Literature, Nonfiction,

Point of View: First Person (autobiographical)

Main Theme: Observing society as a silent spectator, valuing privacy, neutrality

Setting: Early 18th-century London, England.

Historical Context: English Enlightenment, rise of middle-class readership

Purpose: To introduce the narrator and set the tone for future essays.