Different modes of narration

From third-person authorial narration to stream of consciousness, from external focalization to internal focalization. The following sentences all communicate the same information, but they differ significantly in the way this information is conveyed.

- John Miller had lived on the farm all his lfe. He was a descendant of a Puritan family who had arrived in Cape Cod on the Mayflower and who had established themselves in Rhode Island. John was aware of his family's history, yet it didn't fill him with pride and he was, altogether, an unhappy man. He wanted to leave the farm and move to town. He expected life there to be much more exciting.

mode of narration:

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- John Miller told his friends that he wanted to leave the farm and move to town. Life there, he said with a thrill of anticipation, would be much more exciting.

mode of narration:

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- John Miller told his friends that he wanted to leave the farm and move to town. Life there – especially the bars, yeah, the bars - would definitely be more exciting for him.

mode of narration:

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- Maybe his friends had always known that he would some day get tired of life in the country. But for him, it wasn't easy to accept this. Yet he had to leave the farm and move to town. Life there – especially the bars, yeah, the bars - would definitely be much more exciting.

mode of narration:

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- He had to get away, there was no doubt about it. I have to leave, soon, tomorrow, today. Life there will be much more exciting, so much more.

mode of narration: _____

- He had to get away, had to leave. To town. Exciting places, bars. The animals, Brad, right. The sooner the better. When exactly? Tomorrow? Next week?

mode of narration:

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Describe the effect of the different modes on the relationship between the reader and the character (John Miller).

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