

Literary Terms #5 – Character

Characters	Actors in the story
Character Types:	
Major	main characters; protagonist and antagonist
Minor	they may be involved in a conflict with a major character and are essential to the plot, but only so that something can be learned or shown about the major character.
Dynamic	a character who changes over the course of the story Usually the dynamic characters are the main or protagonists who face challenges; a developing character
Static	a character who does not change over the course of the work
Round (novel)	a character whom we get to know well and has multi-character traits presented
Flat (novel)	a character not described much in detail and usually has just one known trait
Character Traits	the qualities of the character; what the character is like (greedy, angry, jealous, etc.)
Characterization	The method a writer uses to reveal the personality of character in a literary work.
Methods of Characterization	Methods may include: (1) by what the character says about himself/herself; (2) by what others reveal about the character; and (3) by the character's own actions

Types of Characterization:

Direct	the method used by the author to directly tell the readers what a character's personality is like.
Indirect	the author doesn't tell the readers directly but provides clues in describing the personality of the character.
Dialect Used to help with characterization	<p>A dialect is the language used by a people of a specific area, class, or time period.</p> <p>The term dialect involves the spelling, sounds, grammar and pronunciation used by a particular group of people and it distinguishes them from other people around them.</p>