

Characterization

Types of Characters

Protagonist: The main character of a narrative; its central character who engages the reader's interest and empathy

Antagonist: The character, force, or collection of forces in fiction or drama that opposes the protagonist and gives rise to the conflict of the story; an opponent of the protagonist

Round: A character that is convincing, true to life. A character that has many different and sometimes even contradictory personality traits. A character that undergoes some type of change or development in story, often because of something that happens to him.

Flat/Static: A character that does not change in the course of the story. A character that is stereotyped, shallow, and often symbolic. A character that has only one or two personality traits.

Characterization

Characterization is the process by which the writer reveals the personality of a character. Characterization is revealed through direct characterization and indirect characterization.

Direct Characterization *tells* the audience what the personality of the character is.

Example: "The patient boy and quiet girl were both well-mannered and did not disobey their mother."

Explanation: The author is directly telling the audience the personality of these two children. The boy is "patient" and the girl is "quiet."

Indirect Characterization *shows* things that reveal the personality of a character. There are five different methods of indirect characterization, "STEAL":

- Speech
- Thoughts
- Effect on others
- Actions
- Looks