

Characters



Every story needs Characters...



People

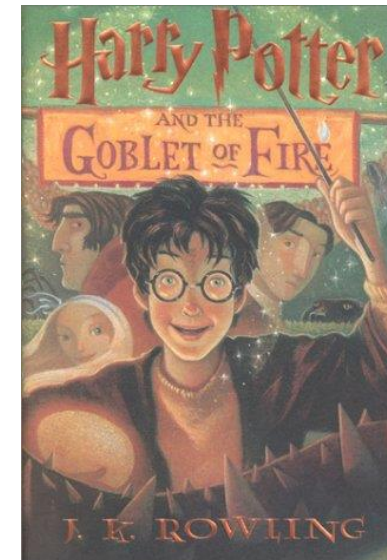
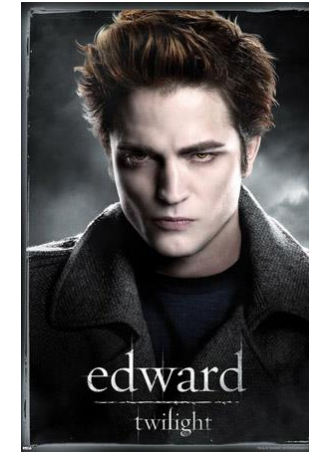


Animals



Or Creatures

The protagonist is the “good guy”



The **antagonist** is the “bad guy” or force



Characterization

Characterization is the way in which an author shows the personality of a character

Characterization is a technique writers use to make characters “come to life.”



Characterization

Characters are people or animals in a story.

A writer can tell you directly about a character... (Freddy was very competitive)

Or

A writer can tell you indirectly about a character... (Two days before the game, Freddy gathered his teammates and laid out his plan. Then he looked at them and said, "We are going to win this one. No excuses.")

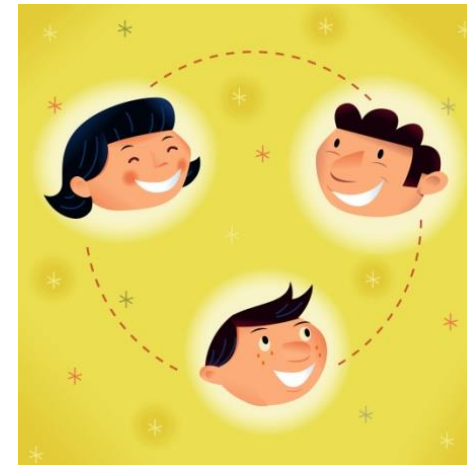
Think about your favorite book, movie or TV character...

- How can you describe his/her appearance?
- What kind of personality does he/she have?
- What kinds of things does he/she like?
- Make a list of character traits for this character.



Direct Characterization

- Direct Characterization tells the reader the personality of the character.
- Direct Characterization is obvious to the reader and “spells” it right out.
- “The *patient* boy and the *quiet* girl were both *well behaved* and did not disobey their mother.



Indirect Characterization

- Indirect Characterization *shows* things that reveal the personality of the character.
- **S**peech
- **T**hought
- **E**ffect on Others
- **A**ctions
- **L**ooks

The boy sat next to his sister as she poked him and teased him. He did not react. He carefully picked up her doll from the floor and placed it on her lap saying gently, “Here you go, why don’t you play with your doll?”

Indirect Characterization...

- ☺ What does the character say? How does the character speak?
- ☺ What is revealed through the character's private thoughts and feelings?
- ☺ What is the character's effect on others? How do other characters feel or behave in reaction to the character?
- ☺ What does the character do? How does he/she behave?
- ☺ What does the character look like? Dress like?



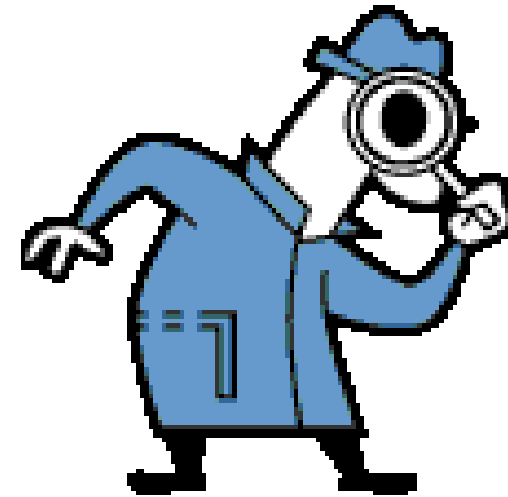
Character Traits

Character Traits are descriptive adjectives that tell us specific qualities of a character

<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Honest•Light-hearted•Leader•Expert•Brave•Conceited•Mischievous•Demanding•Thoughtful•Keen•Happy•Disagreeable•Simple•Fancy•Plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Excited•Studious•Inventive•Creative•Thrilling•Independent•Intelligent•Compassionate•Gentle•Proud•Wild•Messy•Neat•Joyful•Strong	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Bright•Courageous•Serious•Funny•Humorous•Sad•Poor•Rich•Tall•Dark•Light•Handsome•Pretty•Ugly•Selfish	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Unselfish•Self-confident•Respectful•Considerate•Imaginative•Busy•Patriotic•Fun-loving•Popular•Successful•Responsible•Lazy•Dreamer•Helpful•Simple-minded	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Humble•Friendly•Short•Adventurous•Hard-working•Timid•Shy•Bold•Daring•Dainty•Pitiful•Cooperative•Lovable•Prim•Proper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Ambitious•Able•Quiet•Curious•Reserved•Pleasing•Bossy•Witty•Fighter•Tireless•Energetic•Cheerful•Smart•Impulsive•Loyal
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Factors in Analyzing Characters

- Physical appearance/what they look like
- Personality & Character Traits
- Background/personal history
- Motivation/why do they act?
- Relationships
- Conflict or struggles
- Does the character change?
- What do they think and feel?
- How do others feel about them?



Character Motivation

- Character Motivation is the driving force behind *why* the character does what he/she does. (Reasons for character's actions)
- What does the main character want more than anything else (main goal)?
- What do secondary characters want more than anything else (main goal)?
- What potential conflicts or struggles might exist between the characters?

