

Characterization

the way a writer creates and develops characters

Two types of characterization:

Two types: **Direct**- tell you their qualities **Indirect**- author shows you through their actions, thoughts, words and reactions

4 methods of characterization:

The writer may make direct comments about a character through the voice of the narrator
(Direct)

The writer may describe the character's physical appearance (Direct)

The writer may present the character's own thoughts, speech or actions (Indirect)

The writer may present thoughts, speech and actions of other characters (Indirect)

Characters- imaginary people, animals or other beings that take part in the action.

Character Traits- qualities shown by the characters.

Character Motivation: reasons behind a character's actions

Main Character-the most important characters in literary works Short stories usually have one, novels may have several

Minor Character- less important characters in a literary work. The story is not centered on them but they help carry out the action in the story

Protagonist- the main character in a story, play or novel

Antagonist- a force working against the protagonist in a story, play or novel. The antagonist is usually another character but can be a force of nature, society or an internal force within the main character

Dynamic Character: one whom undergoes a change as the plot unfolds; these changes occur because of the character's actions and experiences in the story. Changes can be good or bad and are usually internal. Main characters are often dynamic

Static Character: one who remains the same throughout the story, The character may experience events and interact with other characters but they are not changed because of them.

Foil- a character who provides striking contrast to another character

Author's use foil to call attention to certain traits in the main character or to enhance the character by contrast

Hero- the main character or protagonist. In older literature the hero tends to be better than an ordinary human; they protect society and are typically courageous, strong, honorable and intelligent. In modern literature, heroes can simply be an ordinary person with ordinary problems

Narrator- the voice that tells a story.

Point of View- *the method of narration used in a short story, narrative poem, or work of nonfiction*

1st person- the narrator is a character in the story
uses me, my, I words

3rd person- the narrator's voice is outside the
action, not one of the characters

Limited 3rd person- the narrator, who is outside the
action, knows the thoughts, feelings and
observations of only one character

Omniscient 3rd person- the all knowing point of
view-the narrator can see into the minds of all
characters