

# CHARACTERS AND CHARACTERIZATION

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# MAIN CHARACTERS

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**Protagonist:** The main character of the story is the protagonist. Often the story will be told from their point of view. Like Harry Potter, or Spiderman, the protagonist is the character the audience is most invested in.

**Antagonist:** The villain of the story is the antagonist. Examples include Lord Voldemort in the Harry Potter stories, and Thanos in Avengers Endgame .

# CHARACTERIZATION

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- Characterization is the many ways that characters are constructed for the audience member. The narrator can explicitly state information about a character or can provide information that implies certain things about a character.

# ROUND CHARACTERS

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- Round characters are characters that have been fully developed by an author, physically, mentally, and emotionally, and are detailed enough to seem real.
- Only a few characters are ‘round’ in a story.
  - Usually only main characters are round. We learn a lot about them, and usually we can relate to them because we see them as fully developed people.

# FLAT CHARACTERS

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- A flat character is not described in much detail. They usually don't speak much, or do anything very important in the story.
- Most of characters in a story or movie are flat.

# NOT ALL CHARACTERS ARE PEOPLE

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- ▶ Characters can be any psychological presence or personality that takes action or is acted upon in a story.
  - ▶ Animals
  - ▶ Robots
  - ▶ Aliens
  - ▶ Artificial intelligence
  - ▶ Magical beings
  - ▶ Spirits/ghosts
  - ▶ Even objects

# DYNAMIC V. STATIC

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- A dynamic character is one who changes significantly during the course of the story.
  - changes in insight or understanding
  - changes in commitment
  - changes in values
- Protagonists are often dynamic characters
  - Being changed by a quest
  - Coming of age
  - Gaining insight and wisdom

## HOW CAN THE NATURE OF A CHARACTER BE REVEALED TO THE AUDIENCE MEMBER?

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- The narrator can describe the character directly:
  - She was tall and muscular, but with dark eyes and a soft voice
- The thoughts of the character about herself can be revealed through focalization techniques
- Other characters can describe her
- The character can describe herself



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- The actions and thoughts of a character can provide clues to the character's personality, etc.
  - Actions and thoughts can be revealed directly or through focalization techniques, other characters' talk, etc.