

## Character & Characterization Notes

### Types of Characters

- **Dynamic** = A characters that **changes** over the course of the story
- **Static** = A character that **does not change** over the course of the story

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Protagonist</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Main Character</li><li>- Almost always dynamic</li></ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Antagonist</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Opposing Character or Force</li><li>- May be either dynamic or static</li></ul>
---	---

### Characterization:

- The **evaluation of** a character to better understand his or her **personal attributes**
  - Personal attributes are the qualities or characteristics of a character in regards to:
    - Physical appearance
    - Age
    - Personality traits
    - Mental traits
    - Emotional traits
    - Social traits
    - Interests
    - Occupation
    - Etc.

### Types of Characterization:

- Characters may be revealed directly or indirectly
  - **Direct Characterization**
    - **A direct and specific statement** is made by either the author or the narrator about a character's appearance, thoughts, feelings, actions, or reaction
    - The description of a character is ***directly stated*** in the text and ***can be read word for word***
  - **Indirect Characterization**
    - **The reader must** use clues from the text and draw upon their own experiences to ***make inferences*** about a character and their personal qualities
    - The description of the character is ***NOT directly stated*** within the text.

## **Methods of Characterization:**

A character's qualities are revealed through 4 main methods.

### **1. Appearance (Author/Narrator's Description)**

- An attribute can be revealed by how a character looks
  - i. Direct Characterization Example:
    - Megan was six feet tall, making her the tallest girl in her class.
  - ii. Indirect Characterization Example:
    - His clothes were baggy and did not fit properly.

### **2. Thoughts & Emotions**

- An attribute can be revealed by what a character thinks or feels
  - i. Direct Characterization Example:
    - Julie was excited to find out Mark was in her class. She thought that he was the cutest boy in the whole school.
  - ii. Indirect Characterization Example:
    - Quickly scanning for her name the team roster, Nicole's stomach began to curl and tears welled up in her eyes until she was crying uncontrollably.

### **3. Actions & Reactions**

- a. An attribute can be revealed by what the character does, how he/she reacts, and how others react to the character
  - i. Direct Characterization Example:
    - Stephen was a great hockey player and as he scored his 100<sup>th</sup> goal of the season, the fans roared with excitement.
  - ii. Indirect Characterization Example:
    - Gabby gazed out the window as Stephen continued to talk.

### **4. Dialogue**

- a. An attribute can be revealed by what the character says or by what others say about him/her.
  - i. Direct Characterization Example:
    - "I Love Him, Diana!"
  - ii. Indirect Characterization Example:
    - I asked her if she liked buffalo wings and all she could say was, "I didn't know buffaloes had wings!"