Character & Characterization Notes

Types of Characters

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Protagonist</strong></th>
<th><strong>Antagonist</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Main Character</td>
<td>- Opposing Character or Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Almost always dynamic</td>
<td>- May be either dynamic or static</td>
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</tbody>
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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
     - Direct Characterization Example:
       - Megan was six feet tall, making her the tallest girl in her class.
     - 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
     - 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.
     - 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**
   - An attribute can be revealed by what the character does, how he/she reacts, and how others react to the character
     - Direct Characterization Example:
       - Stephen was a great hockey player and as he scored his 100th goal of the season, the fans roared with excitement.
     - Indirect Characterization Example:
       - Gabby gazed out the window as Stephen continued to talk.

4. **Dialogue**
   - An attribute can be revealed by what the character says or by what others say about him/her.
     - Direct Characterization Example:
       - “I Love Him, Diana!”
     - Indirect Characterization Example:
       - I asked her if she liked buffalo wings and all she could say was, “I didn’t know buffalos had wings!”