

Character Analysis



What is Character Analysis?

Character analysis is a way to use clues from the story to learn more about the characters.



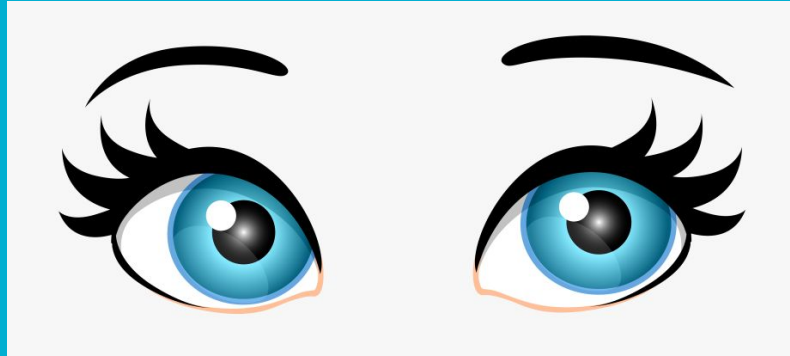
Why is Character Analysis Important?



It is important because it helps us understand the story and the people in it.

Physical Traits

What does the character look like?



Character Behavior

How does the character behave or act?



— Character Relationships

What relationships does this character have with other characters in the text?



Let's Practice!

Once upon a time, in a small village in Russia there lived a woman called Baboushka. Baboushka was very house-proud. She had the tidiest house in the village and the most beautiful garden. She was always cooking and cleaning, scrubbing and sweeping, polishing and painting.



All the villagers were out in the square talking about a bright new star that had just appeared in the sky. Everyone was very excited about the star because it brought great news. But Baboushka didn't even notice the dazzling star - she was far too busy cleaning her house.



Baboushka

| Physical Traits | Behavior | Relationships |
|-----------------|----------|---------------|
| | | |



A Wrinkle In Time



A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle It was a dark and stormy night. In her attic bedroom Margaret Murry, wrapped in an old patchwork quilt, sat on the foot of her bed and watched the trees tossing in the frenzied lashing of the wind. Behind the trees clouds scudded frantically across the sky. Every few moments the moon ripped through them, creating wraith-like shadows that raced along the ground. The house shook. Wrapped in her quilt, Meg shook. She wasn't usually afraid of weather. "It's not just the weather," she thought, "it's the weather on top of everything else. On top of me. On top of Meg Murry doing everything wrong." School. School was all wrong. She'd been dropped down to the lowest section in her grade. That morning one of her teachers had said crossly, "Really, Meg, I don't understand how a child with parents as brilliant as yours are supposed to be can be such a poor student. If you don't manage to do a little better you'll have to stay back next year." During lunch she'd rough-housed a little to try to make herself feel better, and one of the girls said scornfully, "After all, Meg, we aren't grammar-school kids any more. Why do you always act like such a baby?"

Meg Murry

| Physical Traits | Behavior | Relationships |
|-----------------|----------|---------------|
| | | |

Character Traits

Descriptive adjectives that tell us the specific qualities of the character.



Character traits develop over time.



Examples



Positive

Thoughtful
Generous
Hardworking
Dependable
Brave
Cooperative
Bright
Grateful
Honest
Patient

Negative

Lazy
Arrogant
Selfish
Cruel
Rude
Immature
Careless
Disrespectful
Dishonest
Irresponsible

_Character Traits Are NOT Emotions



- Emotions (mad, sad, happy, etc.)
- Emotions change frequently



Clues Authors Use



- Action Clues: Traits are revealed through actions or events.

Ex: standing up to a bully = *courage*

- Verbal Clues: Traits are revealed by what the character says and how they say it.

Ex: A character yells, "Because I said so" = *bossy*

- Other Clues: Traits are revealed through physical appearance, how they live, thoughts, feelings, etc.

Ex: Sam never cleans his room = *messy*

What Are the Young Girl's Character Traits?



Let's Practice!

Jen's family was packing for a trip to Disney World, and Jen was determined to fit all of her favorite clothes into her suitcase. The suitcase was so full of clothes that it wouldn't shut. Jen took all of the clothes out, refolded them tightly, and tried zipping up the suitcase again. It didn't work.

Jen's mom brought her a bigger suitcase, but Jen refused to use it. She was going to get everything to fit.

It was the third week of school, and Curtis still hadn't made any friends. Every day at recess, he would try to work up the courage to ask some boys in his class if he could play basketball with them. But every day, Curtis walked away without saying anything. He eventually gave up trying and sat underneath the big tree at recess. He desperately hoped somebody would come talk to him.

Exit Ticket



Becky was at her friend Rachelle's house. Rachelle was chatting about her pet hamster, but Becky wasn't listening. She couldn't stop thinking about the talent show that her teacher had announced today. Becky couldn't wait to try out.

"Hellllloo??? Are you even listening to me?" Sarah asked.

Becky looked up. She hadn't even realized Rachelle had finished her story.



— Character Types

Any person, animal or figure represented in a literary work



— Major Characters

Major characters play a big part in the story. They influence the plot and take part in solving the main problem of the story.



— Minor Characters

Minor characters pop up to help (or hurt) the story's major characters.



Minor Characters



— Protagonist

The protagonist is the main character of the story. Stories are often told from their point of view.



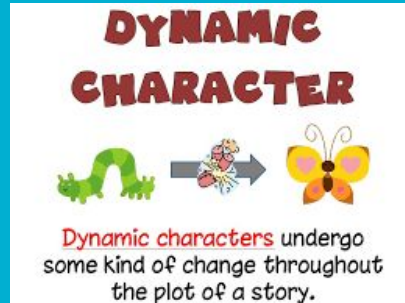
— Antagonist

The antagonist is the character (or characters) who causes problems for the protagonist.



— Dynamic Characters

Dynamic characters change through the story, usually because they overcome a challenge which makes them grow as a person.



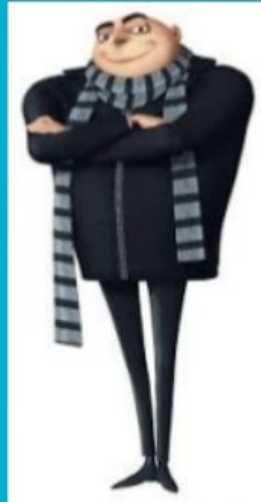
Static Characters

Static characters do not change. Their personalities and attitudes are the same at the end of the story as they were at the beginning.



Round Characters

Round characters have complicated personalities and more than one character trait.



Flat Characters

Flat characters don't have complicated personalities. Readers know them by only one character trait.



Character Types Video

