

Narrative Elements

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2.3 - Characters: Who are they? What do you know about them? How can you describe them physically and morally? Which character do you like the most?

<http://www.nadasisland.com/literature/characters.html>

Characters are either major or minor.

In most pieces of fiction, one or two characters predominate and the action revolves around them; they are called the major characters, and among them lies the central character or the protagonist with whom the reader associates; s/he is the individual who experiences the greatest struggles or conflicts.

The essential nature of major characters, and particularly that of the protagonist, is often emphasized through the use of character foils.

A character foil is any character whose nature, actions, or motivations serve to emphasize or highlight the nature, actions, or motivations of another character.

The antagonist: main character (person, animal, climate, etc.) that creates the conflicts with the protagonist.

The hero: once-used reference to character with wholly-positive qualities.

The villain: once-used reference to character with wholly-negative qualities.

“Static characters”: those who do not have the ability to change their beliefs or behaviors.

“Dynamic Characters”: those who, because of experiences and events, have the ability to change their beliefs or behaviors, though they do not have to.

Minor characters: they often play an important role in stories, a role that should not be overlooked because it may serve as an important key to discovering the themes that the novel is exploring.

Readers can learn about characters in many ways, including: Physical traits, Dialogue, Actions, Attire, Opinions, Points of view

To determine the nature of a character we should consider the following questions:

- 1- How does the character behave? What does the character choose to do, choose not to do, or fail to do?
- 2- What motivates a character?
- 3- If a character changes, why?
- 4- Who or what are the antagonists (the forces seeking to prevent the protagonist from achieving his or her goal)? How does the protagonist deal with the antagonists?
- 5- What internal conflicts, if any, does the protagonist experience?

Character's Personality Traits:

- 1.) OUTGOING
- 2.) ORGANIZED
- 3.) HONEST
- 4.) UNDERSTANDING
- 5.) TALKATIVE
- 6.) AGGRESSIVE
- 7.) SENSITIVE
- 8.) CONVENTIONAL
- 9.) BOLD
- 10.) CHARMING
- 11.) CAREFUL
- 12.) CONVINCING
- 13.) SOCIABLE
- 14.) RELAXED
- 15.) CAUTIOUS
- 16.) PERSISTENT
- 17.) COMPETITIVE
- 18.) PLEASANT
- 19.) FORCEFUL
- 20.) IMPULSIVE
- 21.) CALM / QUIET
- 22.) DETERMINED
- 23.) DEMANDING
- 24.) NEAT
- 25.) PERSUASIVE
- 26.) ALERT
- 27.) CHARISMATIC
- 28.) SLY
- 29.) MANIPULATIVE
- 30.) PERCEPTIVE
- 31.) INTELLIGENT
- 32.) SELF-CONTROLLED
- 33.) COURAGEOUS
- 34.) DEXTEROUS (Skillful in handling things)
- 35.) ENERGETIC
- 36.) STRONG/WEAK-WILLED

