

Character Types | Descriptions | Character Analysis

The character is the person in a work of fiction, or it is solely the characteristics of a person. Characters should be consistent and motivated.

IDENTIFY THE TYPE OF CHARACTER	
CHARACTER TYPES/DESCRIPTIONS <i>a single character could be two or three types</i>	
Protagonists (heroes/heroines)	The principal character around whom most of the work revolves. <i>See below for Protagonist types.</i>
Antagonists	The person who the protagonist is against. This is often the villain, but could be a force of nature, a set of circumstances, an animal, etc.
Does the story revolve around protagonist/antagonist actions? If so, is the character the hero (protagonist) or villain (antagonist)?	
Major	These are the principal characters. They dominate the story. Often there are only one or two major characters.
Minor	These are the characters who help tell the major character's tale by letting major characters interact and reveal their personalities, situations, stories. They are usually static (unchanging).
Dynamic (changing) <i>or</i> Static (unchanging)	<p>If he/she is a static (unchanging) or dynamic (changing) character, consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Was the change gradual or rapid? ● Was it subtle or obvious? ● Are the changes significant to the story or are they a minor counterpoint? ● Are the changes believable or fantastic? ● What was his/her motivation to change? ● What situations or characters encouraged the change? ● How does the character learn from or deal with the change?
How does the character learn from or deal with the change?	
STAR	<p>STAR: Says Thinks Acts Reacts</p> <p>Consider how the author presents the character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● By what the character says or thinks. ● By what the character does. ● By what other characters say about him/her. ● By what the author says about him/her.

Character Types | Descriptions | Character Analysis

Look for these things within the creation of the character:

Psychological or personality traits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do these characteristics aid in the character being consistent (in character), believable, adequately motivated, and interesting? Do the characteristics of the character emphasize and focus on the character's role in the story's plot?
Motivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the character ethical? Is he/she trying to do the right thing, but going about it in the wrong way? Is the motivation because of emotion (love, hate) or a decision (revenge)?
Behavior and/or actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the character act in a certain way consistently? Or is the character erratic? Could one pluck the character from the story, put them in another story, and know how they would react?
Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With other characters in the story How others see/react to him/her
Weakness/Flaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typical tragic weakness is pride. Weakness could be anything. "Little Red Riding Hood," the girl talks to a stranger. Naive.
Strengths and/ or virtues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are many different strengths and virtues. One strength/virtue is being good in trying times, like Cinderella. Another strength/virtue is caring for family, like Little Red Riding Hood. Another strength/virtue is being smart, like Oedipus. Most protagonists have more than one strength/virtue.
Moral constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often a character will agonize over right and wrong. If a character doesn't agonize and chooses one or the other easily, that is also significant.
Complex/ simple personality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personalities are more likely to be simple in children's stories, fairy tales, and short stories. Personalities are more likely to be complex in longer works. In shorter works, the character's personality can also be complex. Then it depends on what the author was focusing on.
History and background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes a character analysis looks at the history of the individual character. Was that person mistreated? abused? well-loved? Liked? Sometimes the history of the work matters more. Is the story set in World War II or in ancient Greece? That makes a difference because culture changes stories. If you don't know the culture, though, you may not be able to comment on this.