Character

Types & Development
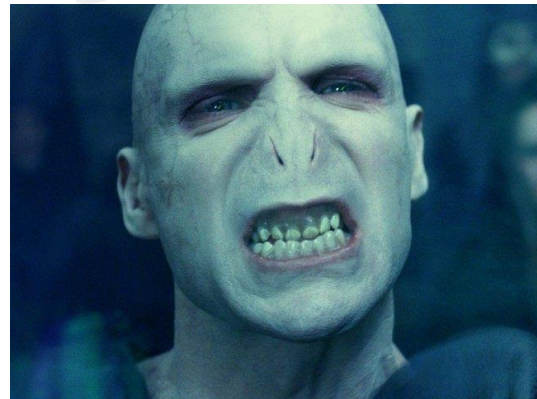
Types of Characters

Protagonist

- The main character in a story

Antagonist

- The person the main character comes into conflict with

Types of Characters Continued...

Flat

- Only one clearly shown trait
- Usually distinctly good or evil, and rely on stereotypes

Round

- A variety of character traits
- They are three dimensional and have depth

Continued…

Static

- These characters do not change or develop
- They stay the same throughout the text

Dynamic

- These characters experience significant change in terms of personality, attitude, mannerisms, etc.

Character Development

In order for a story to seem real, the characters must seem real to readers.

Characters are developed in the story through characterization, which is the information the author gives the reader about the characters.

Methods of Characterization

Thoughts & Feelings

- A character's thoughts, memories and reactions reveal what motivates the character

Actions

- How a character behaves reveals his or her values

Methods continued...

Dialogue

- What a character says and how he/she says it reveals his/her personality and relationships

Other characters' comments

- What other characters say about another reveals a lot about him/her

Methods continued (again!)

Setting

- Imagining the character in a particular setting immediately shapes a reader's impression

Physical Appearance

- Physical appearance or the clothes a character chooses to wear can create an immediate impression

Point of View

- Refers to the perspective from which the story is told

There are three main types that you will find in literature:

First Person Narrative

- The narrator is a character in the story and will use the word "I" in telling the story

Third Person Omniscient

- The narrator is someone outside the story
- Uses "he", "she", "they" to talk about the characters
- Omniscient means the narrator knows and sees all

Third Person Limited

- The narrator is someone outside the story
- Uses "he", "she", "they" to refer to the characters
- The narrator tells the story from one character's eyes only
- They do not know the thoughts of everyone

Second Person

- Less commonly used in literature
- This is where the narrator directly refers to readers by using words like "you" or "your"