Name/Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Character**

“In Literature, characters’ private thoughts are revealed as they rarely are in life.”

“Like real people, characters in books reflect the world in which they live.”

“Conflict between or within characters often reveals the essential meaning of a work.”

**Character Types**

1. **Protagonist—**The main character in a work of literature.
2. **Antagonist—**a character or force in a work of literature that, by opposing the protagonist produces tension and conflict. The bad guy/villain. The antagonist does NOT have to be human.
3. **Dynamic Character--** a dynamic [character](https://literarydevices.net/character/) also undergoes changes throughout the [narrative](https://literarydevices.net/narrative/), due to conflicts he encounters on his journey. A dynamic character faces trials and tribulations, and takes time to learn from his encounters, his experiences, and his mistakes, as well as from other characters. Sometimes a character learns a lesson, and gains maturity.
4. **Static Character--**one that does not undergo inner changes, or undergoes a little change. It is a character that does not develop or grow, such as Sherlock Holmes and James Bond. The personality of this character remains the same at the end of the story as it appeared in the beginning. All his actions stay true and unchanged to his personality in-between the scenes.
5. **Flat Character--**one-dimensional or lacking in complexity. The important thing about flat characters is that they never transcend or break with the formula that defines them.
6. **Round Character—**a character in a novel, play, or story with a complex personality. Like real people, they have depth in feelings and passions.
7. **Stock Character--**A stereotyped character easily recognized by readers or audiences from recurrent appearances in literary or folk tradition, usually within a specific genre such as comedy or fairy tale. Common examples include the absent‐minded professor, the country bumpkin, the damsel in distress, the old miser, the whore with a heart of gold, the bragging soldier, the villain of melodrama, the wicked stepmother, and the jealous husband.
8. **Foil Character—**a minor character whose personality or attitude contrasts with that of the main character. Juxtaposing (contrasting) one character with another intensifies the qualities/traits of both characters. If the main character is very serious and interacts with another character who is humorous, the seriousness of the main character will stand out more vividly to readers.