

CHARACTERS

➤ Protagonist

- Central character
- Person on whom action centers
- Character who pushes the action forward
- Character who attempts to accomplish something
- Usually seen as a good person or hero/heroine
- Usually round and dynamic
- Examples of protagonists:

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➤ Antagonist

- Character or force that holds the action back
- Character who wants something in opposition to the protagonist
- Usually seen as a bad person/force or villain
- Examples of antagonists:

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➤ Foil

- Secondary or minor character
- Character who is a contrast or opposite to the protagonist
- Character who emphasizes or highlights the traits of the protagonist
- Examples of foils:

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➤ Stereotyped or stock character

- Character that is instantly recognizable because of the stereotype
- Examples of stereotyped or stock characters:

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Round or Flat

Characters are described as being round or flat.

➤ **Round** character:

- Well-developed
- Has many traits, both good and bad
- Not easily defined because we know many details about the character
- Realistic and life-like
- Most major characters are round
- *"The test of a round character is whether it is capable of surprising in a convincing way. If it never surprises, it is flat." E. M. Forster*

○ Examples of round characters:



➤ **Flat** character:

- Not well-developed
- Does not have many traits
- Easily defined in a single sentence because we know little about the character
- Sometimes stereotyped
- Most minor characters are flat

○ Examples of round characters:



Dynamic or **Static**

Characters are described as being dynamic or static.

> Dynamic character:

- Undergoes an important change in personality in the story
- Comes to some sort of realization that permanently changes the character
- A change occurs within the character because of the events of the story
- The protagonist is usually dynamic, but not always
- Examples of dynamic characters:







> **Static** character:

- Remains the same throughout the story
- Although something may happen to the character, it does not cause the character to change
- Minor characters are usually static
- Examples of static characters:






