

# Characterization Notes

## What is characterization?

Characterization is the act of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the characters in a story.

## Types of Characters

### 1. Protagonist:

- the \_\_\_\_\_ in the story.
- usually the person the reader is \_\_\_\_\_ for. You want to see this character succeed and do well.

#### **Example:**

In Finding Nemo, Nemo is the protagonist. He's the main character who is trying to find his dad. Nemo's dad, Marlin, is also a protagonist.

### 2. Antagonist:

- usually the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ in the story.
- creates \_\_\_\_\_ for the protagonist.

#### **Example:**

The diver who catches Nemo is an antagonist because he puts Nemo in captivity. Darla is also an antagonist. She's not intentionally mean, but she kills fish by shaking the bag. She creates a dangerous situation for Nemo.

### 3. Round Characters:

- usually the \_\_\_\_\_ in a story.
- we know so many \_\_\_\_\_ (good and bad) about a round character that they start to seem \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Example:**

Nemo and Marlin are round characters. We know a lot about them through the story such as where they live, what happened to Nemo's mother, how well they get along, etc.

#### 4. Flat Characters:

- usually \_\_\_\_\_.
- they don't play a big part in the story so they lack \_\_\_\_\_.
- often \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Example:**

Crush and Dory are two flat characters. We know Crush says, "Duuuuude!" a lot and Dory has a bad memory, but that's mostly all we know about them.

#### 5. Static Characters:

- do not \_\_\_\_\_ at all through the course of the story – their \_\_\_\_\_ remain the same.
- most minor, \_\_\_\_\_ characters are static.
- \_\_\_\_\_ tend to be static (but not always).

#### **Example:**

The dentist and his niece, Darla, are both static characters. Neither of them change during the story. The same is true of Peach the Starfish and most of the Tank Gang.

#### 6. Dynamic characters:

- characters who \_\_\_\_\_ (develop) during the story, usually as a result of something big that happens to them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ are often dynamic.
- \_\_\_\_\_ tend to be dynamic (but not always)

#### **Example:**

Marlin is timid and scared at the beginning of the story, but by the end he is brave, doing things he didn't think he'd be able to do before. Nemo is also dynamic. He realizes at the end of the story how much his dad loves him and looks out for him.



## Types of Characterization

There are 2 types of characterization: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### 1. Direct Characterization:

- the author \_\_\_\_\_ the audience what the personality of the character in the story is.

#### **Example:**

“Minnie’s always been a strong woman, always fighting.” – The Help. The author directly tells the reader that Minny is strong and always fights for what she believes in.

### 2. Indirect Characterization:

- when the author \_\_\_\_\_ things that reveal the identity of the character.
- there are \_\_\_\_\_ different methods of indirect characterization.

- Through the character’s \_\_\_\_\_
- Through the character’s \_\_\_\_\_
- Through the character’s \_\_\_\_\_
- Through the way others \_\_\_\_\_ to the character
- Through the character’s \_\_\_\_\_