

CHARACTER is a person in a work of fiction. Characters are described by their **character traits** or **characteristics**, which are the things we know about that character.

Persons in a work of fiction - Antagonist and Protagonist

Short stories use few characters. One character is clearly central to the story with all major events having some importance to this character - he/she is the **PROTAGONIST**.

The opposite of the main character is called the **ANTAGONIST**.

Types of Characters

MAJOR/MAIN: Those around whom the events of the story revolve

SECONDARY/SUPPORTING: Those who play a significant role in the unfolding of the plot

MINOR: Those who play less significant roles or who are there to provide realism.

The Characteristics of a Person -

In order for a story to seem real to the reader its characters must seem real.

Characterization is the information the author gives the reader about the characters themselves. The author may reveal a character in several ways:

- a) his/her physical appearance
- b) what he/she says, thinks, feels and dreams
- c) what he/she does or does not do
- d) what others say about him/her and how others react to him/her

Characters are convincing if they are: consistent, motivated, and life-like (resemble real people)

Characters are...

1. **Individual** - round, many sided and complex personalities.
2. **Developing** - dynamic, many sided personalities that change, for better or worse, by the end of the story.
3. **Static** - Stereotype, have one or two characteristics that never change and are emphasized e.g. brilliant detective, drunk, scrooge, cruel stepmother, etc.