**CHARACTERS - notes**

**REMEMBER**

* Fiction writers use a variety of characters while weaving their tales. Recognizing the types of characters and the parts they play while reading a story can add to the experience.
* Although the character types are listed separately, characters may be (and often are) a combination. While most protagonists in novels are dynamic (change over the course of the novel) and round, they don’t have to be
* Some character types are, by definition, opposite and cannot be considered. For example, one cannot have a character that is both flat and round, or a character that is both static and dynamic.
* Character types are useful for understanding a character and his place within the story. But, in the end, it is not about how a character can be named and classified, it’s all about how the author creates an understanding of the characters as they bring them to life for the reader.

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**PROTAGONIST VS ANTAGONIST**

***Protagonist:*** The central person/character of the story-the “driver.”

 Also known as the main character, the action in the story revolves around the protagonist

 When determining the protagonist it is important to ask: *“Who is the story mostly about?”*

***Antagonist:*** The opposing FORCE to the protagonist-the cause of the conflict. (NOT ALWAYS A PERSON)

 Whatever the protagonist does that is good, the antagonist will work to undo.

 Causes the conflict against the protagonist

 Not always human, but can be a group or force as well.

 ***( THE PROTAGONIST THEMSELVES, NATURE, A PERSON, A SOCIETY)***

 This is the character, event or force that stands in the way of the protagonist’s desire or final goal.

**MAJOR VS MINOR**

***Major*:** Characters that are vital to the plot and conflict development.

***Minor***: Characters that serve as a complement (not always necessary) to the major characters. the plot could continue without them, mostly.

**FLAT VS ROUND**

***Flat:*** Anyone who has a one-sided personality-the reader only sees one major trait or characteristic.

 A **flat character** is a one –dimensional character that **does not** display emotional depth and has a single set of traits.

***Round:*** Anyone who has a complex (many sides) personality that the reader sees.

**DYNAMIC VS STATIC**

***Dynamic:*** A character who undergoes major internal change throughout the story.

 A **dynamic character** is one that **doe**s undergo an important change in the course of the story.

 The change is usually a result of a conflict

 That changes being referred to are not simple changes (like dying their hair or having a birthday), it is a **significant inner change** within the character.

***Static:*** A character who does not internally change and remains the same throughout the story.

 A static character is one that does not undergo an important change in the course of the story, remaining essentially the same at the end as he or she was at the beginning.