**CHARACTERIZATION - notes**

**CHARACTERIZATION**

*Characterization* is the process by which the writer reveals the personality of a character.

*Character Traits* are the qualities, attitudes, and values of a character - (ex.-intelligence, stubborn, optimistic, etc.)

**DIRECT CHARACTERIZATION**

* + - The author ***tells***the audience what the personality of the character is.

Example: “The *patient* boy and *quiet* girl were both well mannered and did not disobey their mother.”

**INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION**

* + The author ***shows*** the audience what the personality of the character is.
  + Characterization is revealed through:

***S****peech:*

Character traits are revealed by what the character says and/or how he speaks.

***T****houghts*:

Character traits are revealed through the character’s private thoughts and feelings.

***E****ffects on Others*:

Character traits are revealed through the character’s relationship with other characters

***A****ctions*:

Character traits are revealed by what the character does and how the character behaves

***L****ooks*:

Character traits are revealed through the character's appearance and dress.

**CHARACTER MOTIVATION**

* + The reason behind a character’s choice, behavior, or action.
  + Characters can be motivated or driven by:
    - A need (example- for food or shelter)
    - A feeling (example - jealousy)
    - A desire (example - power or money)
  + When determining a character's motivation ask yourself the following questions:
    - What does the character or characters want?
    - What do the characters need?
    - What do the characters do to get what they want or need?

PROTAGONIST:

* The most important character in the story
* The action of the plot revolves around this character

ANTAGONIST:

* Often termed as the villain of the story
* This is the *character, event* or *force* that stands in the way of the protagonist desire or final goal.

(Example - another character, a family, a society, a force of nature, the protagonist themselves)

* **NOTE:** There can be *more than one* antagonist in a story

CONFLICT:

* Conflict is the problem that triggers the action in a story.
* There are five main types of conflict:
  + person vs self - problem deciding what to do or think
  + person vs person - problem with another character
  + person vs society - problem with the laws or beliefs of a group of people
  + person vs nature - problem with the environment
  + person vs fate - problem with something that seems uncontrollable