
Characterization "Indirect and Direct"



By Jasmine B & Ryan W

DEFINITIONS

Characterization

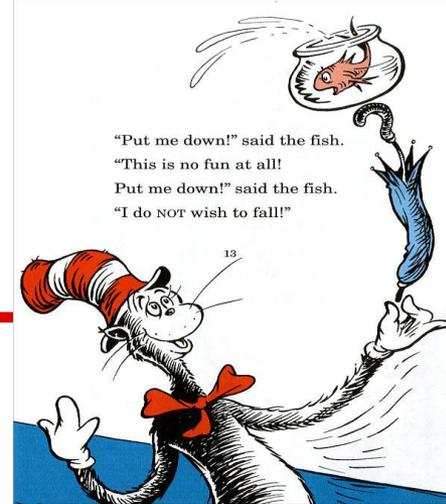
→ *Characterization* is the process in which the writer/author describes abilities and reveals the personality and/or physical traits of a character or characters in and throughout the plot/story

Direct Characterization

Direct Characterization is the process in which the writer/author **tells** the audience what the personality and physical traits of a character or characters

Indirect Characterization

Indirect characterization is the process in which the author/writer **show(using examples)** things that reveal the personality and the physical trait(s) of a character or characters



Purpose(of literary device)



The main purpose authors use **characterization(indirect & direct)** is..

- To describe and essentially reveal the personality and physical appearance or traits about a specific character or characters. Through the process of **characterization**, the author or writer can provide information that helps **introduce** a character. Characterization also helps reveal how a character's attributes or personality and how it affects other characters thoughts and references
 - **Characterization** is important when introducing a character because it helps the reader better understand context later in the story or writing that pertains to that specific character
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EXAMPLES

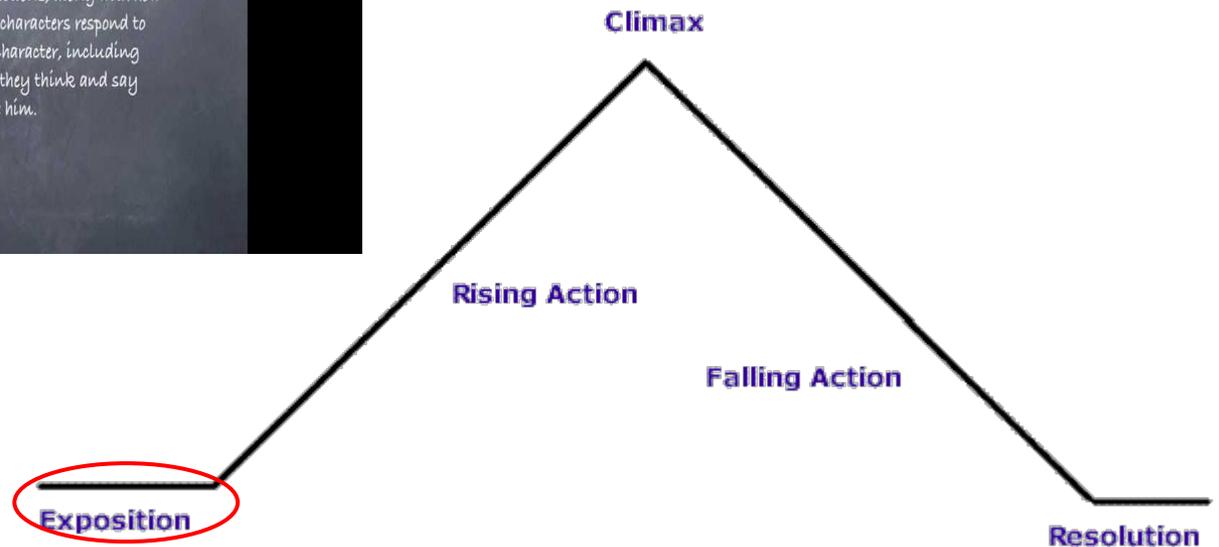
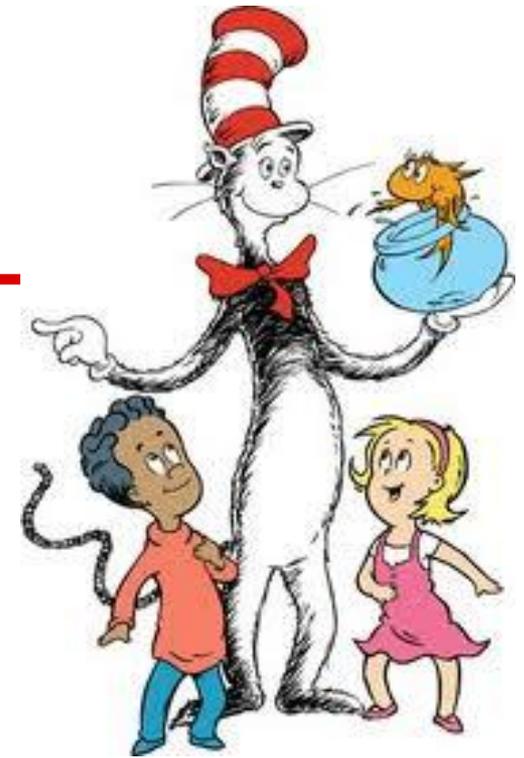
Direct vs. Indirect

Direct Characterization

- the writer makes direct statements about a character's personality and tells what the character is like

Indirect Characterization

- the writer reveals information about a character and his personality through that character's thoughts, words, and actions, along with how other characters respond to that character, including what they think and say about him.



Examples

Characterization in Literature

Humorous

Angry

Compassionate

Energetic

Lazy

Vengeful

Sad

Happy

Examples



Direct Characterization

Example 1: *The novel, 'Of Mice and Men', written by John Steinbeck portrays, George Milton and Lennie Small, whose characters have been explained by direct reference. I have picked up a few extracts from this novel to explain the concept of direct characterization.*

Lennie is big and dumb. His childlike innocence allows him to take an active role in George's dream of owning farm. Lennie loves soft things and animals, which he accidentally kills because of his strength. His size combined with his mental handicap frequently put him and George in difficult situations.

George is a small, quick-witted, migrant worker who travels with his friend Lennie. He speaks of how much better his life would be without Lennie, but only does so in anger. George represents the working man and his struggle to rise above his harsh circumstances. .

Indirect Characterization

EXAMPLE: The girl strolled undetected toward the sandy expanse of the beach while her brother sprinted towards the water's edge kicking up sand onto nearby sunbathers and startling people all around with the tunes blaring from his handheld radio.

EXPLANATION: Although the author does not tell us that the girl is quiet and her brother is rambunctious, we can infer this through their actions.

Clarification(non-examples)

B	I	N	G	O
bald	beard	beautiful	blonde	brown eyes
brunette	curly hair	dark-skinned	fair-skinned	freckles
green eyes	handsome	Free Space	long hair	moustache
old	overweight	pale	short	short hair
skinny	slender	tall	thin	wavy hair

- **Characterization** is usually pretty clear in it's explanation
- Generally **indirect** and **direct characterization** are often the two components that are hard to recognize within the process of **characterization**
- Whether the author is describing physical descriptions or revealing the character's personality, the most important part to remember is what type of characterization is being used and how does that affect other characters in the story or plot

Example: Is this sentence indirect or direct?

- John stood, looking out the high, wide window watching the snow fall gently onto the ground.

-The author shows that John is tall looking through the tall window

Quiz



True or False:

1. Characterization is the process in which the author reveals the traits (physical) and personality of a character or characters(slide 2):

TRUE or FALSE

2. Indirect characterization is the process in which the author SHOWS(USING EXAMPLES IN THE TEXT) the personality/physical traits of a character or characters(slide 2):

TRUE or FALSE

3. The purpose of characterization is to reveal what the character's personality/physical description is as well as a character's thoughts throughout the story(slide 3):

TRUE or FALSE

4. Characterization is generally present when introducing a character or characters(slide 3)

TRUE or FALSE

5. Characterization is often found in the exposition(slide 4): **TRUE or FALSE**
