

Characterization- direct and indirect

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Definition

Direct: tells the audience what the personality of the character is

Indirect: shows things that reveal the personality of a character

Purpose

To build the relationship between the story and the reader.

Direct Characterization

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

The author is directly telling the audience the personality of these two children. The girl is quiet and the boy is patient.

Indirect Characterization

“I’m paying today for my acts of cruelty.”

The reader has to infer the personality of the characters by reading the surrounding information provided.

Explaining More..

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhxLbjYOmrg>

Indirect - examples

Indirect characterization

The method in which the author shows or dramatizes a character's personality indirectly by:

- * Showing the **character acting** and **speaking**
- * Revealing the character's **inner thoughts**
- * Giving a **physical description** of the character
- * Revealing **what other characters think about the character** or relate to him or her

The author allows you, the reader, to draw your own conclusions about the character.

Characters sometimes LIE.

Direct-Examples

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Indirect Characterization

Thoughts- What is revealed through the character's thoughts and feelings?

Example: I wish it would stop raining. I am tired of sitting inside!

This shows us the character is not happy about the situation.

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Quiz! Direct or Indirect?

1. Bob was a selfish boy and quite a bully.
2. Even though Bob had already had one cookie, he stole 5 more from the other boys in his class.
3. Jonas has pale eyes.
4. No one takes him seriously, he is so frightfully touchy and lazy.
5. Jonas bowed his head and searched through his mind. What had he done wrong?

Bibliography

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http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson800/Characterization.pdf