

# CHARACTER ANALYSIS

# BACK TO THE MOVIES

**Choose a movie we have all seen, again.**

**Who is a main character?**

**Was this character a good guy or bad guy?**

**What traits does this character have? How do we know?**

**Which characters help this main character?**

**Does this character change at all through the story?**



# CHARACTERIZATION

**Three areas of focus:**

- 1. Character Motivation**
- 2. Character Description.**
- 3. Character Change.**

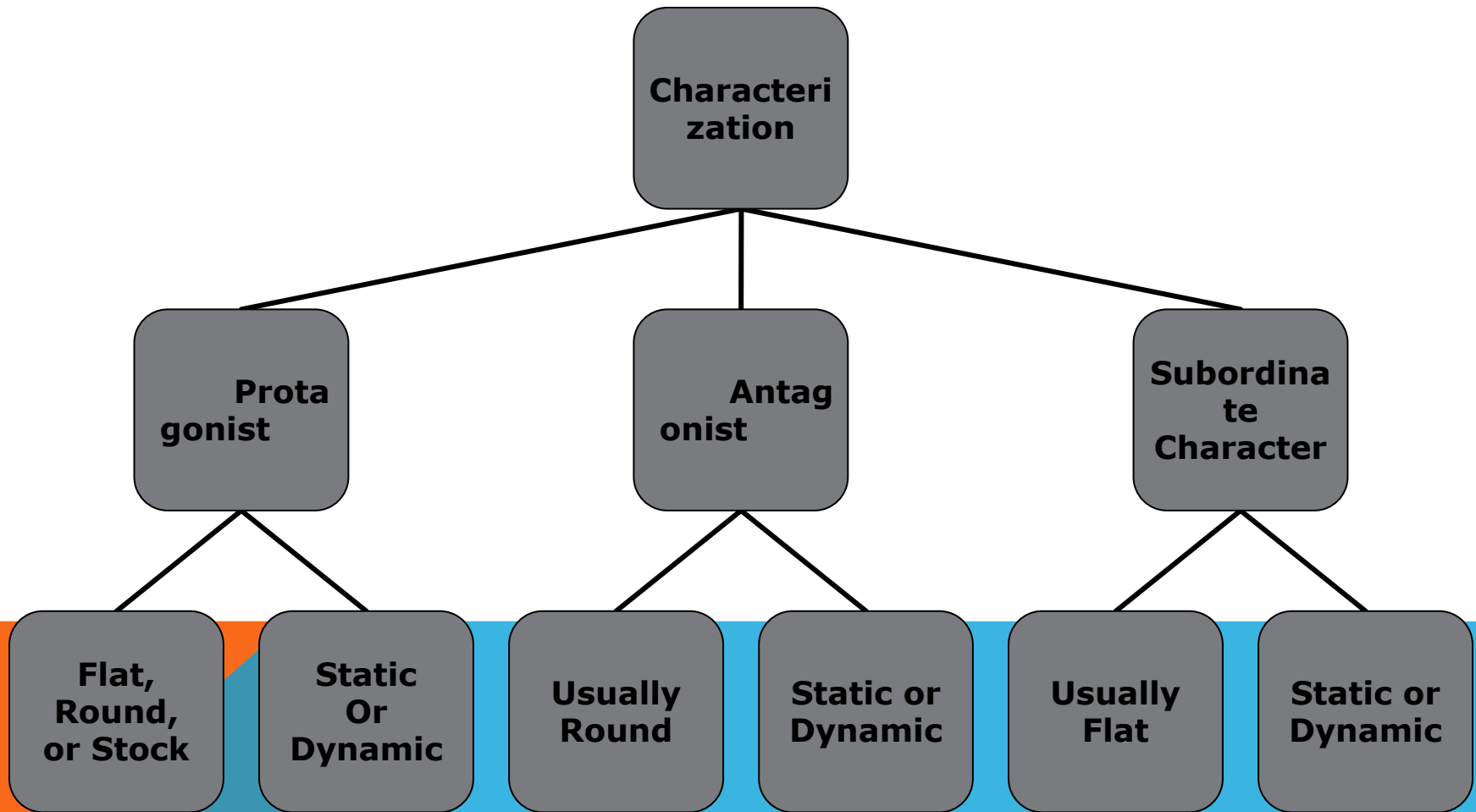


# CHARACTERS—AN AUTHOR CREATION

**Character** = individual in a story, poem, play, or film that has traits

- **Direct Characterization** = narrator tells us about the character (aka narration)
- **Indirect Characterization** = reader has to put together clues about the character
  - Appearance = what the character looks like
  - Dialogue = what the character says to others and how it's said
  - Private Thoughts = anything the character thinks/says when alone
  - Actions = what the character does.
  - Interactions = how this character interacts with other characters and how other characters react to him or her.

# CHARACTER FLOW CHART



# FIRST WAY TO ANALYZE CHARACTERS

The Protagonist = the “good guy”, trying to accomplish something, has a problem to solve.

- Reluctant Hero
- Anti-hero

**Antagonist** = the bad guy, tries to block protagonist

**Subordinate Characters** = characters who support either pro or antagonist

**Both Protagonist and Antagonist**

- There will be blood.

**Conflict** = the dispute/problem between the protagonist and antagonist

- **Flat Character** = one who only has a few traits that are easily seen
- **Round Character** = complicated character with many traits
- **Stock Character** = fits our ideas of the type of character/stereotype

**“The Simpsons” is a great example of stock characters. Everyone in that show is stereotype.**



# A 3<sup>RD</sup> WAY TO ANALYZE CHARACTERS

**Static Characters** = remain the same through the story

**Dynamic Characters** = change a great deal during the story

- Believability = the reader has to buy into the character
- Motivation = the character has to have a reason for their actions



# MOTIVATION

**Motivation is the reason behind the character's action.**

**You have to ask yourself why characters do what they do.**

**Recalling information: from “Of Mice and Men”**

- Why does George take care of Lenny?
- Why does George kill Lenny at the end?
- Did George have a choice?

# MOTIVATION

**What would you do if you suddenly inherited a million dollars?**

**Would you continue as you are now or change your lifestyle?**

**Would you give some money away?**

- To whom

**What would you buy?**



# CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Character:

Traits

Support from text


**What main character wants (motivation):**

**Relationship with other characters:**

**Primary Conflict:**

**Resolution:**

**How character changes:**