

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:

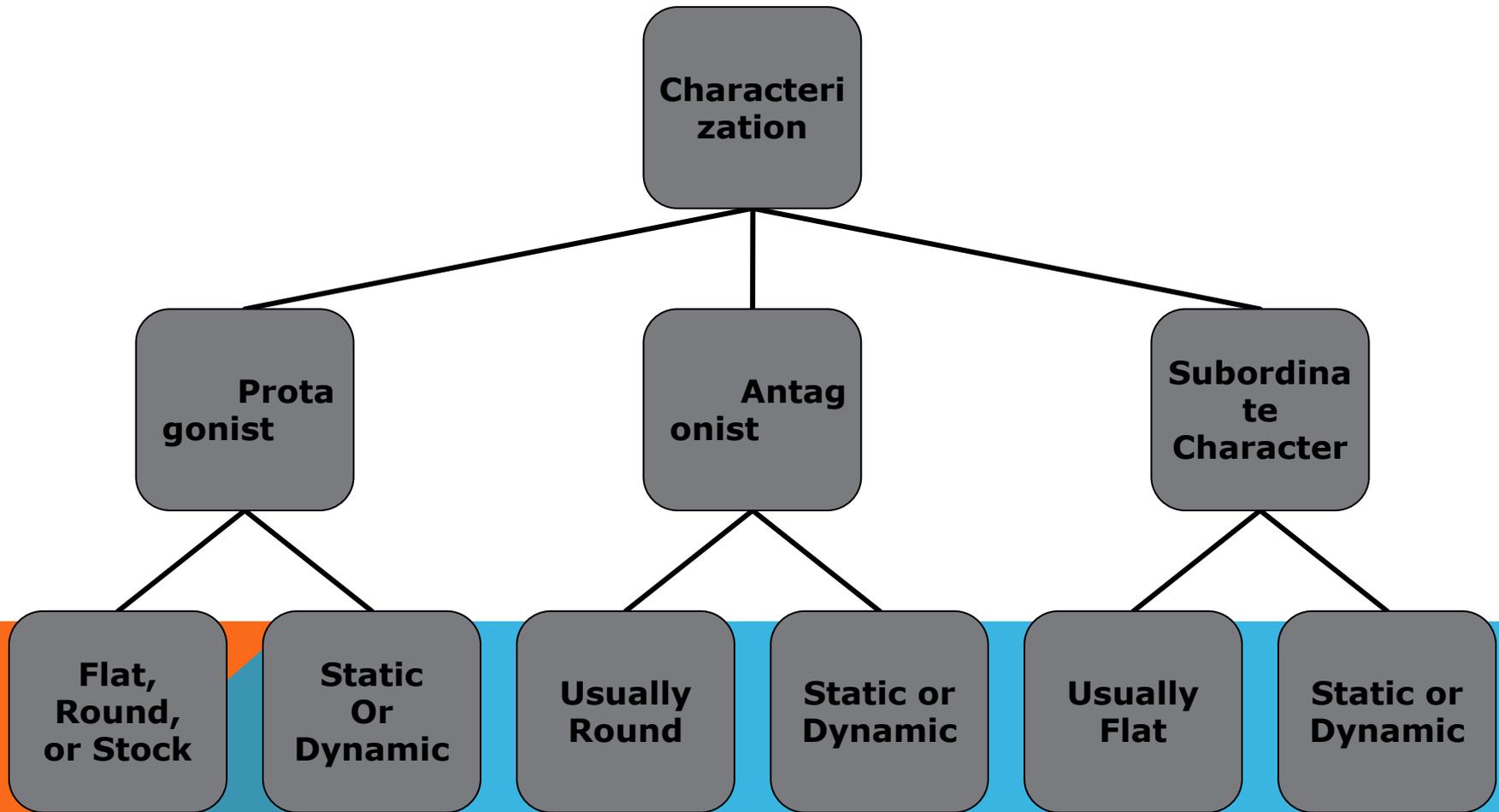
- 1. Character Motivation**
- 2. Character Description.**
- 3. Character Change.**

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 3RD 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

Traits	Support from text

What main character wants (motivation):

Relationship with other characters:

Primary Conflict:

Resolution:

How character changes: