**Characterization: A Primer**

**Methods of Characterization**

Fictional (made-up) characters come to life in our minds for a number of reasons. Authors deliberately build these characters to have certain traits. For that reason, we understand any given character as a result of:

1. The character’s actions
2. The character’s words
3. The writer’s description (physical or mental) of the character.
4. The other characters’ thoughts and words about the character.

There are a number of character types, and each has a particular role to play in a narrative. Here are some of the different types:

1. Round character – has many different facets or sides to her personality. There is always something more to learn about them, and we assume they hold beliefs or knowledge that they do not reveal.
2. Flat character – does not exist beyond what is seen on the surface. What you see is what you get. These characters do not offer any personality traits or beliefs that cannot be seen.
3. Static character – remains the same despite changes in the world beyond them. These characters do not “learn” lessons from life, or change their ways because of things they have witnessed, heard, or experienced.
4. Dynamic character – changes his attitude, point of view or opinion from time to time. These characters “learn” lessons from life, and can change their ways because of things they have witnessed, heard, or experienced.