

# CHARACTERS

**textbook pages 74–75**

# NARRATIVE ELEMENT: CHARACTER

*an individual in a story, poem, or play.*

A character **always has human traits**, even if the character is an animal, as in Aesop's fables. In myths the characters are divinities or heroes with superhuman powers (such as Odysseus and his superhero intelligence)

# CHARACTERIZATION

when writers reveal their character's traits (special qualities) either directly-- **direct characterization**-- or indirectly-- **indirect characterization**

# DIRECT CHARACTERIZATION

when the writer simply tells us directly what the character is like. For example:

**“Esmeralda was the most serious person in school. She longed for fun but was afraid of disappointing her very serious aunt”**

# INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION

when the writer reveals the character's personality in more subtle ways including: appearance, dialogue, private thoughts of the character, actions, and the effects those actions have on others.

# S.T.E.A.L. = METHODS OF INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION

Writers can reveal a character's personality by:

**S**-speech: letting us hear the character speak

**T**-thoughts: letting us listen to the character's inner thoughts and feelings

**E**-effects on others: revealing what other people think or say about the character

**A**-actions: showing the character's actions

**L**-looks: describing how the character looks and dresses

# TYPES OF CHARACTERS

Flat character- a two-dimensional character with only one or two key personality traits

Round character- complex characters with many personality traits

stock character- a character who fits our preconceived notions about a "type" (mad scientist, cruel villain, pretty princess)

static character- does not change much in the courses of a story

you do: list a character for each of these types, choose characters from well known books or movies so that the rest of the class will understand your response

dynamic character- changes in some important ways as a result of the story's action

# STEAL CHART

Let's practice! Watch the clip from the Movie "UP" below as a "refresher", then use the information viewed and heard to fill out the character chart using Ellie as your round character

