

# SMART™ Lesson

## Understanding Literature - Analyzing Character Development

In literature, characters are an essential element. They help bring a story to life and make readers invested in the plot. Thus, analyzing character development is an important part of understanding literature. It enables readers to understand how characters change and evolve throughout the story and the impact they have on the outcome.

### What is Character Development?

Character development is the process of creating characters for a story and then showing how they change and grow throughout the plot. It is the way in which writers reveal the inner workings of their characters, both their physical and psychological traits, and the motivations behind their actions.

### The Different Types of Characters:

- Protagonist - the main character of the story who is typically the hero or heroine or the central character
- Antagonist - the character who opposes the main character in the story
- Major Characters - these characters play a significant role in the plot and contribute to shaping the story and its outcome
- Minor Characters - these characters play a minor role in the story but can affect the plot in some way

### Ways to Analyze Character Development:

To analyze character development, readers can look at the following:

- Physical Description - The author's description of a character's physical appearance and mannerisms can give insight into their personality, lifestyle, and background
- Actions and Behaviors - The way a character behaves and reacts to events in the story can help identify their traits and motivations
- Dialogue - What a character says can reveal their personality, emotions and inner thoughts
- Growth and Change - How a character changes and grows throughout the story can provide insight into its overall themes and messages

### Worksheet Questions:

Now that you have learned the basics of character development, try answering the following questions:

1. What is character development, and why is it important in literature?
2. Name the different types of characters that appear in literature.
3. What can we learn about a character based on their physical description?
4. How can a character's actions reveal their traits and motivations?
5. What is the significance of analyzing character development in understanding the overall themes and messages of a story?

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Analyzing Character Development

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