

The People and Locations in Fiction ①

Character and Characterization

A character is a person in a literary work.

Characterization is the method of creation of the character.

Characters in drama are called persons, and characters are literary creation. So characters are all the product of characterization; that is to say, they have been made in a particular way. Characterization is a method & character is the product.

Characters are the life of literature; they are the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation. So intense is our relationship with literary characters that we feel sympathy, antipathy and sad with their poor condition even they are imaginary. They become part of our life. More than two thousand years ago, writing about drama in the Poetics, Aristotle argued that character is 'secondary to plot'. He said that plot is the first essential' or

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'lifeblood' of tragedy and added that characters are included 'for the sake of the action'. The novelist Henry James says that character is the determination of incident, incident is the illustration of character. According to James Plot and character both are equal and mutually defining.

What a person or character work in a literary work is given below.

Broadly speaking there are two ways in which novelists present characters; these are Telling and showing.

Telling

In telling the narrator directly informs the reader about a character.

Showing

In showing the reader is left to gather what the character is like from what he or she sees.

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However, telling and showing are not exclusive of each other and a novelist can both tell and show.

E.M. Forster, in *Aspects of the Novel* introduced new terms for an old distinction by discriminating between flat and round characters. Flat characters are two-dimensional relatively uncomplicated figures, whereas round characters are complex characters with many different characteristics. A flat character remains the same throughout the fictional work and can be summed up in a sentence. A round character is complex character who has many different qualities. A round character cannot be summed up in a sentence or two. Round characters often tend to be dynamic characters since they undergo a change in the novel.

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Setting

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Scenic: The place, for example, Coketown England where the story takes place

Essential: Coketown, with all its brick buildings and its conformity and sterility and the educational system, is conspicuous as part of the setting.

Symbols: Dickens uses many symbols to convey the horror of the setting: Coketown is the brick jungle, the factories are the mad elephants, the death-bringing smoke is the serpent, the machinery is the monster.