CHARACTERIZAITON INFO

First set

CHARACTERIZATION

A fictional character is a human being without a body- a person made entirely of words. Words, my dear reader--words

Fictional characters should be as complex as living human beings. The trouble and difficulty is making them complex.

Characters are what create the plot and conflict. The characters in a work of fiction need to be elemental to the story and conflict.

Discovering a character

Every character should have an inner life, even if you show little of it. In a short story, where there isn't room to actually reveal much about the main character, the work should imply that the character, whom we only meet in one or two scenes, has a past and future extending far beyond the story. We as readers should feel that there is more.

**You** as an author should believe in character's potential for growth.

**Character** should be seen as a living whole-not as a collection of traits.

**Characters** are not constructed. They are created.

They are alive and capable of thought

**Characters** are made of language so the mundane activities of daily life are unnecessary unless they are central to the plot.

**Characterization**-Who they are/what we know/how we know

IMPORTANT

FUNDAMENTALS OF CHARACTERIZATION

*#1 Name*

**A name** is a product of the character's identity

**Fictional** characters' names tend to be distinctive.

**make** name memorable

**simple** names can be distinctive if they are associated with a memorable character.

**Use** names that have not been used before.

**Take** care in using bizzare or uncharacteristic names

**\*Character's** name should be memorable and individual.

*#2 Physical Appearance*

**Physical** appearance is often more a matter of tone, atmosphere, emotion than of sensory detail.

**It** is important for reader and writer to form a clear mental image of the character.

**Mental** image can be created with few details

Multiple pages of description can be usless if few details can create the same character

**Any** aspect of physical appearance can be used if it creates the reality of character

clothing

hair color

eye color

complexion

facial features

READ The Life You Save May Be Your Own. Address the first two methods of characterization. Apply to the graph below. Copy graph into your own word file. Fill it in. Work VIA something with a partner if you wish. Do not meet in person

After reading the story get on Teams and help with the discussion and understanding of others through the posts identified by titles.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Character | What we know (trait) | How we know  (method)Name or appearance | What impact did this have on the plot? |
| SHIFTLET | 1 |  |  |
|  | 2 |  |  |
| Lucynell Crater (mother) | 1 |  |  |
|  | 2 |  |  |
| Lucynell Crater (daughter) | 1 |  |  |
|  | 2 |  |  |