

# Prose

## Lecture 8

### **Characters & Characterization**

The techniques of Characterisation (Explicit and Implicit);  
Characterisation by Narrator or Character; Block Characterisation;  
Reliability; Inner Life of Characters; Contrasts and Correspondences;  
character Functions and Character Complexity and Development

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# Contents

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- Characters & Characterization
- The techniques of Characterisation (Explicit and Implicit);
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- Reliability;
- Inner Life of Characters;
- Contrasts and Correspondences;
- Character Functions and Character Complexity and Development

# Why people create narratives?

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- Enhance and deepen our understanding of human character and human life.

# What is character?

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In a narrative, people are well known as **characters** considered as a fictional representation of a person and usually depict psychologically realistic ones.

(Kirszner, L. G., & Mandell, S. R., 2007, p. 125)

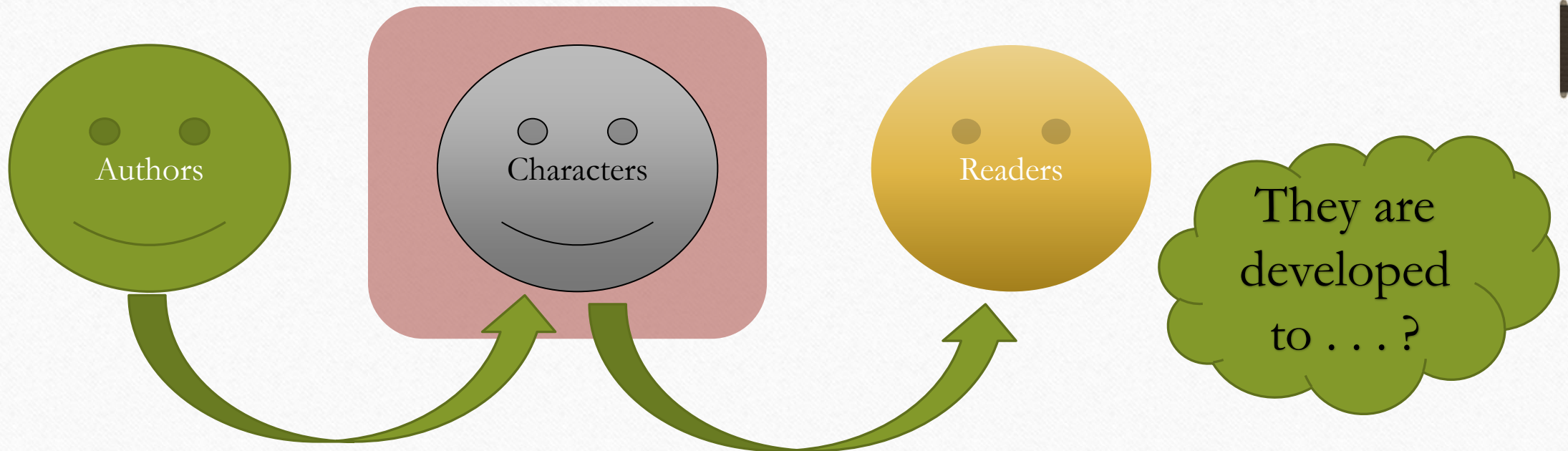
# Why characters?

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The use of **characters** in narratives serves to highlight **the fact** that they are merely **symbols** of real people. They are a verbal representation of a human being (Roberts, E. V., & Zweig, R., 2012, p. 156).

# The purpose?

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# How to develop characters?

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Authors can make characters **accessible** and deserving of compassion, support, and even admiration by using a variety of literary devices, such as **action, speech, description, and commentary**.

(Roberts, E. V., & Zweig, R., 2012, p. 156).

# Author → Reader's feeling

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- Authors have the ability to develop characters that cause readers to feel a **variety of things**.
- The characters are also often developed to arouse readers' feelings- **like or dislike**.
- Funny or disgusting characters are also often created with the purpose is to make the fictional **world rich and varied**.

# How to understand them?

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Based on the **facts and information** presented, readers then construct an understanding of the character. But more than that, they also incorporate certain concepts from their own **experience** and **imagination**.

# More

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in life things may “just happen,” in literature all actions, interactions, speeches, and observations are deliberate. By making such actions interesting, authors help you understand and appreciate not only their major characters but also life itself.

# Character Traits

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“A trait is a quality of mind or habitual mode of behavior that is evident in both positive and negative ways, such as supplying moral support to friends and loved ones, being a person on whom people always rely, always wearing a sunny smile, listening to the thoughts and problems of others, avoiding eye contact, never repaying borrowed money, taking the biggest portions, or always thinking oneself the center of attention.”

(Roberts, E. V., & Zweig, R., 2012, p. 156).

# Character Traits

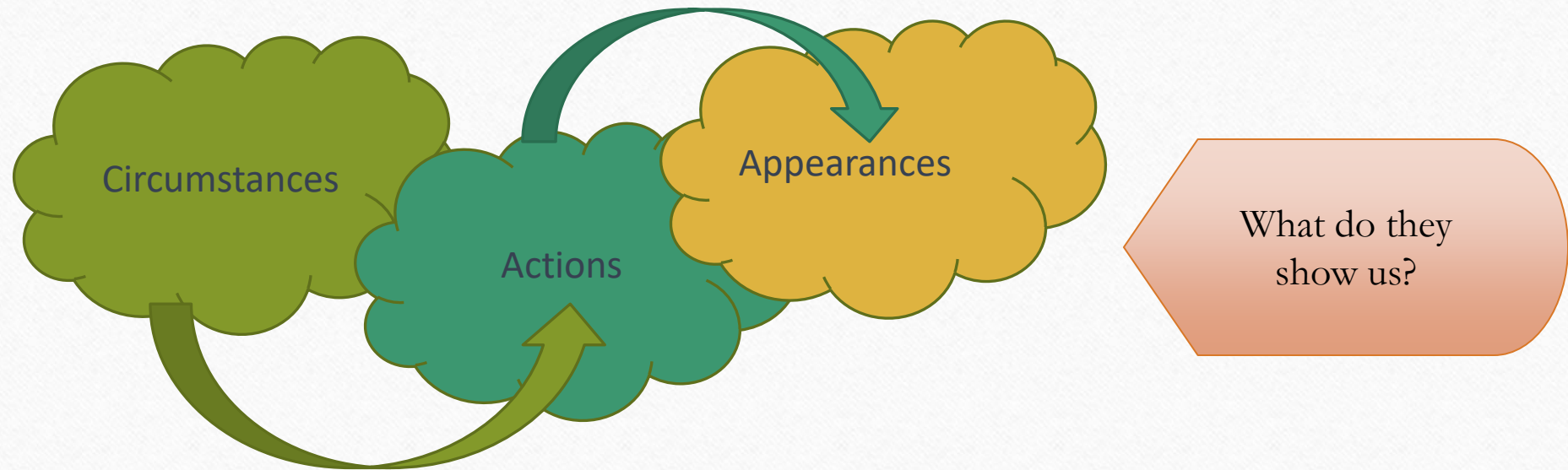
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“Sometimes, of course, the traits we encounter are minor and insignificant, but often a trait may be a person's primary characteristic (not only in fiction but also in life). Thus, characters may be ambitious or lazy, calm or anxious, aggressive or fearful, thoughtful or inconsiderate, open or secretive, confident or self-doubting, kind or cruel, quiet or noisy, idealistic or practical, careful or careless, impartial or biased, straightforward or underhanded, “winners” or “losers,” and so on.”

(Roberts, E. V., & Zweig, R., 2012, p. 157).

# Circumstances and Character Traits

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# Circumstances and Character Traits

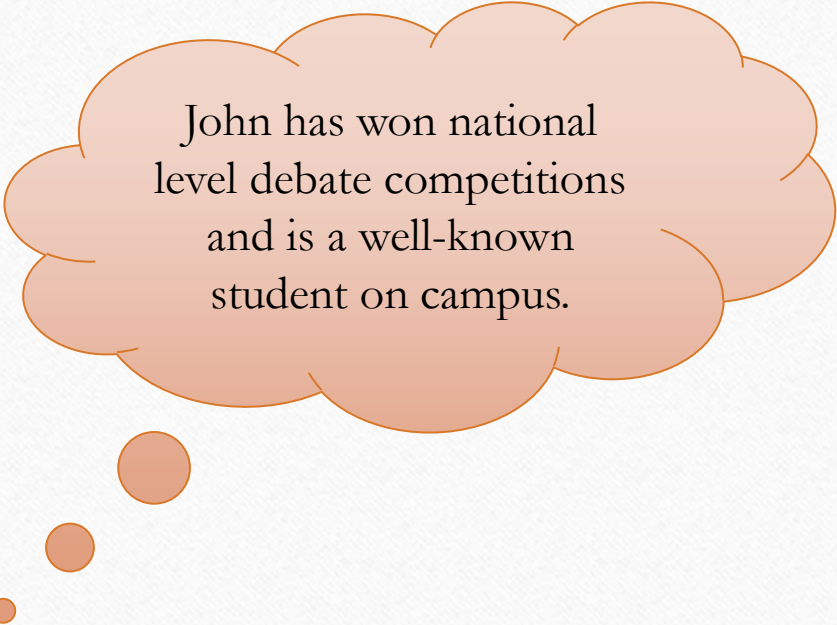
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What can you show me?

# Circumstances and Character Traits

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John has won national level debate competitions and is a well-known student on campus.

# What to focus?

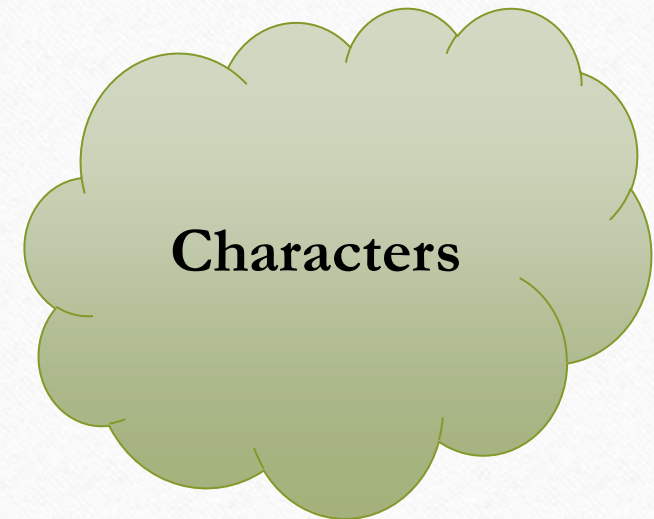
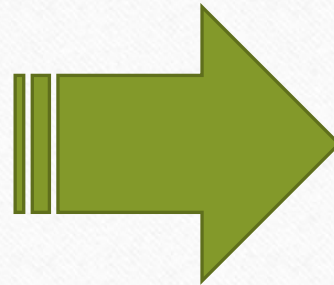
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- 1) Techniques of characterisation: HOW are the text?
- 2) Character functions: WHAT functions?.

# Why do we need to?

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- How is the character described,
- By whom is the character described,
- How is the characterisation distributed throughout the text,
- How reliable is the source of information,
- What do we learn about a character's inner life and
- In which arrangements of contrasts and correspondences is the character depicted.



(Lethbridge, S., & Mildorf, J., 2003, p. 49)

# Techniques of Characterisation

(Explicit and Implicit Characterisation )

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“Mocka, smart and adorable. He has courage and speed. With his large body, he always manages to defeat foreigners who enter his territory. Firm and uncompromising are his strengths”.

# Techniques of Characterisation

(Explicit and Implicit Characterisation )

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How do you handle this problem?

What are you going to do?

Will you help him?

## by Narrator or Character(s)

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“Mocka, smart and adorable. He has courage and speed. With his large body, he always managed to defeat foreigners who entered his territory. Firmness and never giving up are his strengths. But according to the neighbors' thoughts, he was too noisy and scary. But of course he has a reason why he did that. He is always ready. Work work and work are his principles. He was always around the corner every morning at 7am and 6pm”.

## by Narrator or Character(s)

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“I will without hesitation attack anyone who disturbs my friends and my family. People say I am evil, but I am uncompromising and firm in rejecting agreements that harm many people”.

## Block Characterisation

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“Cello is a woman who embodies hope, faith, and loyalty. She lives her life without questioning the power of God and remains steadfast in her beliefs. Cello understands that life is filled with both highs and lows. She firmly believes that everything has its own time for beauty and that beauty will eventually reveal itself. If she hasn't encountered that beauty yet, she knows it's simply not the end of her journey”.

# Reliability(?)

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Really?

Are you sure?

Is that believable?

Are you kidding me?

Who are you?

# Let's see this

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“Mocka, smart and adorable. He has courage and speed. With his large body, he always managed to defeat foreigners who entered his territory. Firmness and never giving up are his strengths. But according to the neighbors' thoughts, he was too noisy and scary. But of course he has a reason why he did that. He is always ready. Work work and work are his principles. He was always around the corner every morning at 7am and 6pm”.

# What's behind this?

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- In storytelling, when a character describes or judges other characters, it actually provides insight into their own personality. This is because the way they talk about others reflects their attitudes and can also expose their own flaws. By analyzing how a character perceives and criticizes others, we can gain a deeper understanding of their own strengths and weaknesses. This technique of implicit self-characterization adds depth and complexity to the portrayal of characters in literature.

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- It is important for readers to be careful about how the character presents himself. May not always be reliable. May distort the truth or have ulterior motives.
  - Therefore, readers should be skeptical and look for other sources of information to gain a more accurate understanding.

# Inner Life of Character

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-As time goes on, the more I understand-

# Contrasts and Correspondences

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- Why do we need to compare things?
- What does it mean?
- What is the result?

# Wrap up!

by the <b>narrator</b>	<b>explicit:</b> character description or comment	
	<b>implicit:</b> report of character's actions and/or thought, description of outward appearance and circumstances, contrasts and correspondences	
by a <b>character</b>	<b>by another character</b>	<b>explicit:</b> description or comment; simultaneously implicit self-characterisation
		<b>implicit:</b> as implied by choice of expression and description of appearance and circumstances
	<b>self-characterisation</b>	<b>explicit:</b> description or comment
		<b>implicit:</b> use of language or gesture, expression, attitudes unconsciously expressed, characteristic props

(Lethbridge, S., & Mildorf, J., 2003, p. 52)

# Character Functions

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- Consider a character in relation to other characters

# Major and Minor

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- Major (also main) characters and any number of Minor characters.

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“The main character, especially when there is only one, is also called **protagonist**. The term protagonist has the advantage that it implies no value-judgement and can include **heroes or heroines** (i.e. positive main characters) as well as **anti-heroes** and **anti-heroines** (i.e. negative main characters)”

(Lethbridge, S., & Mildorf, J., 2003, p. 53)

# Think of these!

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Voldemort, Harry Potter, Captain America, Batman, Darth Vader (Star Wars Franchise), Maleficent (Maleficent), Magneto (X-Men Franchise), Thanos (Avengers Infinity War dan Avengers End Game), Killmonger (Black Panther), Joker (Dark Knight), Frank Martin (The Transporter), Barney Ross (The Expendables), Bryan Mills (Taken), Terminator (The Terminator), John Rambo (Rambo)

# Witnesses

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- In a story there will always be someone (minor characters) who acts as a witness.

# Foil characters.

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- A comparison to draw attention to the primary character's characteristics. In the Sherlock Holmes stories, Watson is a foil character whose common sense draws attention to Holmes' brilliance.

# Let's conclude

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- What have we learnt?
- Why do we need this?

# References

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- Sylvan, B., Morton, B., & William, B. (2008). *An introduction to literature: fiction, poetry, and drama.*

Thank you

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**See you in the next meeting!**