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## Types of Characters

Protagonist: The main character in a work; usually also the hero or heroine, but sometimes an antihero

Antagonist: The character pitted against the protagonist. An evil antagonist that attempts to defeat the protagonist is a villain. But the antagonist is not necessarily always a villain, he/she may simply be a hindrance to the protagonist.

Foil: A character whose contrast with a main character serves to accentuate that main character's distinctive qualities or characteristics

Stereotype: Something conforming to a fixed or general pattern; especially, a standardized mental picture that is held in common by members of a group and that represents an oversimplified opinion, prejudiced attitude, or uncritical judgment

Flat/Round: A flat character is very simple, one that can be defined by a single idea or quality. They usually have one defining characteristic. A round character is much more complex, more similar to real people.

Static/Dynamic: Over the course of a work, static characters experience no significant change regardless of the plot events. Dynamic characters change drastically for better or worse in response to circumstances and experiences in the plot.

## Thesis Statement

The thesis statement in a character analysis should make an assertion about aspects of a specific character or multiple characters. The writer should then attribute his or her assertion to the author.

Sample structure: *In (work), (author) characterizes (character) as a foil to (character) because (support), (support), (support).*

Example: *In "Tale of Two Kats," Samulburge can be classified as a foil to Houstonheim because of the contrasting characteristics: A, B, C.*