

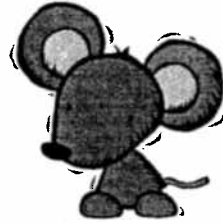
Characterization

What is characterization?

Direct Characterization is where the author comes right out and tells the reader what a certain character is like.

For example: In "The Quiet Man" Maurice Walsh describes his main character, Shawn Kelvin-

"For he was a quiet man, not given to talking about himself and the things he had done."



Mice are quiet too. Especially when they're dead. Refer to Ms. S's past stories.

Indirect characterization is generally more effective. In this case the author gives certain information and lets the reader draw his own conclusions regarding the character of the person in the story. Some types of information the writer uses to reveal character include:

- His or her name
- His appearance
- What he says
- What he thinks
(where story is told in 1st person or omniscient POV)
- What other people think of him
- How animals react to him



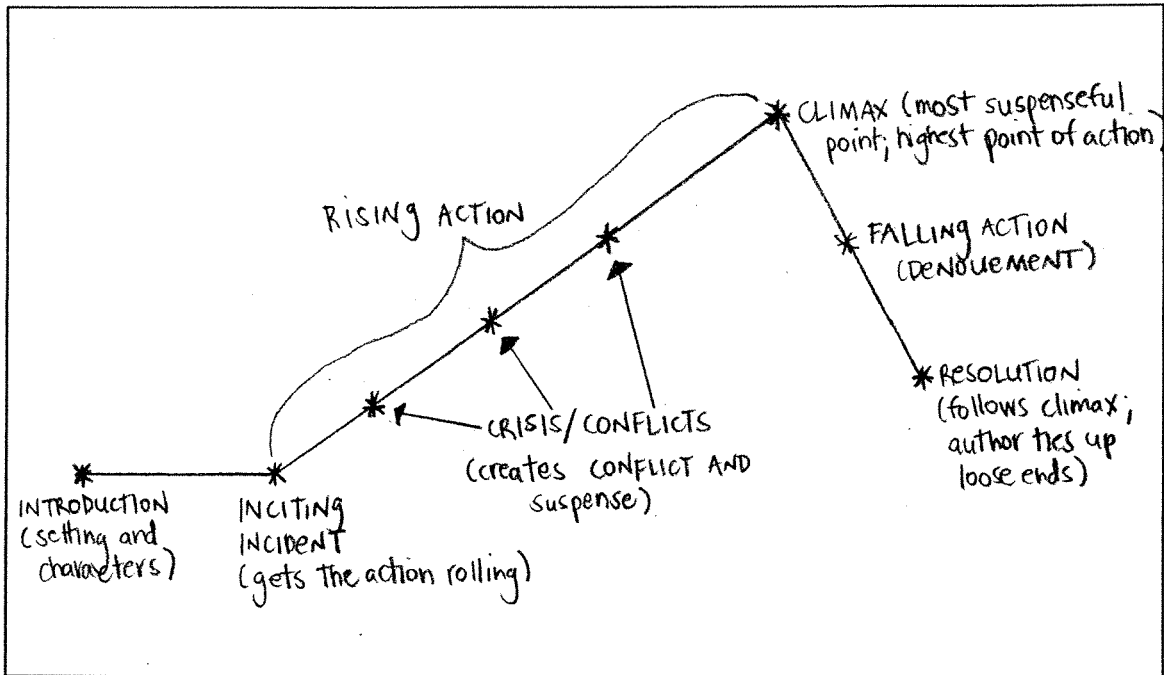
For example, a main character in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* is called "Piggy"

And the most common of all:

- What the character does
(how he acts in a particular situation)

Plot Structures

The Basic Plot Structure



The Multiple Climax Plot Structure

Name two movies that use multiple climaxes:

The Flashback Plot Structure

What shows on TV are well known for using flashbacks?

The Open Ended Plot Structure

What types of stories are usually 'open ended'?

The Multiple Endings Plot Structure

What type of book uses a multiple endings format?

Theme

Theme is generally defined as the central insight, idea, focus or subject matter of a work (especially fiction), stated directly or indirectly. To state it more simply, theme will reveal a general and universal point about human nature.

A good statement of theme will not sound too preachy, and will not dwell on the specifics of a piece. A theme is not as instructive as a moral, but they do state truths about human nature and life.

Some examples:

Impulsive actions are often regretted.

Parents and children often have difficulty understanding each other.

Pets can be as important to people as family members.

Nature is a powerful force, not to be fooled with.

Hard work often reaps many rewards.

Sometimes, ordinary people can do extraordinary things.

Hard work often triumphs over talent (eg. The tortoise and the Hare- A true Cinderella story!)

Other general themes: adolescence, stereotypes, peers, family, self, nature, childhood, innocence to experience, personal challenges, death or loss, urban or rural life, etc.