**CHARACTER**

**Authors reveal what characters are like in two general ways:**

* Direct Characterization - the author simply tells the reader what the characters are like
* Indirect Characterization – the author shows, rather than tells what the characters are like through what they say about one another, through external details (dress, bearing, looks), and through their thoughts, deeds, and speech.

**Characters are also classified by how they change:**

* Static - characters who remain the same through the work
* Dynamic – characters who change through the course of the work. Dynamic characters, especially main characters, typically grow in understanding.
* Flat - an easily recognized character type in fiction who may not  be fully delineated  but  is  useful  in carrying out some narrative purpose of the author.

**The climax of this growth is called an epiphany:**

* Climax – turning point in the plot of a story
* Epiphany - describes a sudden revelation of truth experienced by a character

**These questions will reveal characters and the ways they are developed**:

1. Is the character flat, static, or dynamic?
2. What steps does he/she go through to change?
3. What events or moments or self-revelation causes these changes?
4. How does what he/she learns help or hinder him/her?
5. What problems does he/she have?
6. How does he/she attempt to solve those problems? What choices does he/she make?
7. What, if any, archetypes or stock (typical) character does he/she represent? (ex. Repressed housewife, mad scientist?)
8. If the character is complex, what makes him/her complex?
9. Does he/she have traits that contradict one another and therefore cause internal conflicts?
10. Does he/she experience epiphanies? When? Why?
11. What does the epiphany reveal to the character and to the reader?
12. How does one character relate to the others in the novel?
13. Does he/she have speech mannerisms, gestures, or modes of dress that reveal his/her inner self?
14. Comment on the emotional state of the character?