

Characterization:

The way in which an author informs the readers about a character:

- Direct characterization
- Indirect characterization
- Descriptions of behavior
- Descriptions of mannerisms
- Descriptions of appearance
- Description of interests
- Way of speaking

8 Ways to Reveal Character

1. Actions
2. Dialogue (this will come AS you write your story!)
3. Idiosyncrasies- unique mannerism/ peculiar behavior

For example: habit of using "like" when speaking!

4. Physical, social, emotional, intellectual descriptions
5. Objects/possessions
6. Reactions
7. Thoughts
8. Background information

Self-check of your Character Description:

Ask yourself these questions when trying to understand characterization:

- **What does the character look like?**
- **How does the character behave towards others? How do others behave toward the character?**
- **What does the character seem to care about?**
- **What adjectives does the author use to describe the character's personality?**
- **What does the character think or say?**

To begin drafting your character:

Create a box and bullets list for each of the 8 ways that character is revealed, ***except dialogue:***

Actions

- Goes running when stressed
- Confronts her friends
- Keeps an anonymous blog

Physical, social, Emotional, intellectual

Bullet point each category

Idiosyncrasies

- Twirls her hair when nervous
- Overuses like
- Looks at the ceiling when talking to people about uncomfortable subjects

Objects/ possessions

- Anchor necklace
- Brain cancer ribbon bracelet

