

I'm not a robot

































I am tired of staring at a blank page, struggling to analyze your characters effectively. Well, you're not alone! Let's face it, character analysis can be a real pain in the neck, especially for students. But fear not, because we've got you covered. We've created a comprehensive guide to help you conduct character analysis like a pro! With our guide, you'll learn essential techniques and strategies to bring your characters to life and make them truly unforgettable. So, if you're ready to analyze, keep reading! Understanding Character Analysis

Character analysis is a literary technique used to understand a character's personality, behavior, and motivations. It involves closely examining the character's actions, thoughts, and relationships with other characters in the story. By doing so, readers can gain a deeper understanding of the character's role in the story and how they contribute to the plot's development. This helps you better analyze and interpret literature, leading to a more detailed and insightful understanding of the text. So, character analysis is a key component in becoming a successful student of literature. Export Post Want to get started on a literary analysis? Check out this comprehensive guide on doing a literary analysis effectively!

Studying Different Types of Characters In literature, there are several different types of characters that serve different roles in a story. By understanding these types of characters, you can better analyze each character and their purpose in the literary narrative.

**Protagonist:** The protagonist is the main character of the story, who drives the plot forward and is typically the character with whom readers sympathize or identify.

**Antagonist:** The antagonist is the character who opposes or challenges the protagonist. They often have opposing goals and values, creating conflict in the story.

**Supporting Characters:** These characters play important roles in the story, providing context, advancing the plot, or representing certain themes or ideas. They may include mentors, friends, enemies, or secondary antagonists.

**Stereotype:** A stereotypical character is one who embodies common, often exaggerated, traits or characteristics associated with a particular group or identity.

**Supporting Characters:** Supporting characters are those who serve a secondary role in the story, and often provide context or help move the plot forward. By recognizing these different types of characters, you can develop a thorough analysis of any character.

**Paper Due?** Why Suffer? That's our job! How To Do a Character Analysis Analyzing a character involves several steps that help you gain an understanding of their overall purpose in the story. Here are some steps to follow when conducting a character analysis:

**Read the Text Thoroughly** To analyze a character, it's important to first have a solid understanding of the story they're a part of. Read the text multiple times, paying close attention to details like plot, setting, and character interactions. For example, in "To Kill a Mockingbird," a character analysis of Atticus Finch requires a thorough understanding of the novel's themes of racial prejudice and injustice.

**Take Notes** As you read, jot down notes on the character's traits, actions, and relationships with other characters. Look for patterns in the character's behavior and interactions, and note any symbolism or metaphors used to describe the character. For example, in "The Great Gatsby," Jay Gatsby's character analysis notes his flamboyant and unjustified, his love for Daisy Buchanan, and the symbolism of the green light across the water.

**Compose Character Analysis Questions** After taking notes, it's important to ask questions to analyze your character from various angles. The more you know about them, the better you will be able to compose the analysis.

These questions should be specific to the character and their role in the story. Some examples of character analysis questions include:

- What does this character want, and what motivates them to achieve it?
- How do the character's actions and decisions impact the plot of the story?
- What is the character's backstory, and how does it shape their current behavior?
- How does the character relate to other characters in the story?

By asking these questions, you can explore the character's motivations, conflicts, and experiences lead to this change?

**Identify the Character's Traits** A character's traits are the qualities and characteristics that define them. Here you can include physical attributes like appearance and mannerisms, as well as personality traits like kindness, arrogance, or intelligence. For example, the Othello character analysis identifies his traits and behaviors analyzing his physical appearance and personality. Othello is tall, dark-skinned with a strong build and a deep voice. He is proud and noble but also prone to jealousy and can be easily manipulated, leading to his tragic downfall.

**Consider the Character's Motivations** Understanding a character's motivations is key to understanding their behavior and actions in the story. Ask questions like, "What drives this character?" and "What are their goals and desires?" For instance, in "An Inspector Calls," Mr. Birling's character analysis reveals that his motivations are centered around maintaining his wealth and social status, leading him to make decisions that harm others. Understanding his motivations helps to reveal the play's central theme.

Analyze the Character's Relationships Characters often reveal aspects of their personality through their relationships with others in the story. Look at how the character interacts with other characters and how these interactions impact the character's development throughout the story. In "Things Fall Apart," Okonkwo's character analysis shows his relationships with other characters, which reveal his fear of being perceived as weak, making this analysis an essential component of understanding his arc in the story.

**Look for Symbolism** Characters are often used to represent larger themes or ideas in a story. Look for symbolism or metaphors used to describe the character, and consider how they relate to the story's overall message. For example, in "The Great Gatsby," Jay Gatsby's character analysis essay explores interesting character analysis examples such as the green light, the eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg, and the Valley of Ashes.

**Worksheet Character Analysis of Joseph Andrews Character Analysis of Hamlet Character Analysis of Macbeth Character Analysis of Pride and Prejudice Character Analysis of Tess of the D'Urbervilles Character Analysis of Oedipus Rex Character Analysis of Knight in Canterbury Tales Character Analysis of the Clerk in Canterbury Tales Character Analysis of the Clerk in Canterbury Tales Character Analysis of Hecuba Gabler Character Analysis of Waiting for Godot Character Analysis of Stephen Dedalus Character Analysis of Stephen Dedalus Character Analysis of Macbeth Character Analysis of Macbeth Character Analysis of Heart of Darkness Character Analysis of Heart of Darkness The Crucible Character Analysis Now that you know how to perform character analysis, it's time to put what you've learned to the test. However, if you're still struggling with analyzing, you can always turn to our professional essay writing help to out. Our team of experienced writers can craft an excellent character analysis that showcases your understanding of the characters. We offer a range of services, from writing and editing to proofreading, to ensure that your analysis is flawless. You can also try our AI essay writer to help you with your next character analysis assignment!**

Caleb S. has extensive experience in writing and holds a Masters from Oxford University. He takes great satisfaction in helping students exceed their academic goals. Caleb always puts the needs of his clients first and is dedicated to providing quality service. Caleb S. has extensive experience in writing and holds a Masters from Oxford University. He takes great satisfaction in helping students exceed their academic goals. Caleb always puts the needs of his clients first and is dedicated to providing quality service. Caleb S. has extensive experience in writing and holds a Masters from Oxford University. He takes great satisfaction in helping students exceed their academic goals. Caleb always puts the needs of his clients first and is dedicated to providing quality service. Caleb S. has extensive experience in writing and holds a Masters from Oxford University. He takes great satisfaction in helping students exceed their academic goals. 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have the depth and complexities of real human beings, and are therefore deemed more successful creations. This third dimension might be a change as a result of events in the story; it might be the successful depiction of contradictory beliefs and behaviour; or it might be acting on an irrational impulse something which human beings are doing all the time. For instance, in A Tale of Two Cities Sydney Carton is a cynical and alcoholic barrister who acts in a self-indulgent and disreputable manner throughout the majority of the novel. But at the end of story he takes another mans place at the guillotine an act of self-sacrifice which atones for all his past wrongdoings. Dickens makes the change of character credible, and Cartons last words (his thoughts) have become famous: It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known. Dubious charactersSuccessfully realised characters are not necessarily likeable or even decent. Authors are at liberty to create characters who are flawed, and they might still be attractive or memorable. Fagin in Oliver Twist is a grizzly old rogue who runs a childrens criminal gang. He mistreats the members of the gang, tells lies, and is partly responsible for the death of an innocent woman (Nancy). Despite all these negative characteristics, he is so vividly portrayed by Dickens that he remains a standout and very memorable figure in the novel. Some characters might be likeable even though they commit reprehensible acts. Vladimir Nabokovs protagonist Humbert Humbert in Lolita is attractively clever and very amusing, even though he abducts and sexually abuses a teenage girl and murders his rival, Claire Quilty. But the first-person account of events Humbert delivers is so full of jokes and witty observations of American life, that we tend to overlook his flaws. Providing evidenceA detailed character analysis depends on a close reading of the text, coupled with an understanding of the character. It also requires evidence drawn from the text to support any argument about the character. It is not enough to say that you dont like a character, or disapprove of something they do in the story. What you are doing is closer to showing that you understand what the author is trying to demonstrate to the reader. This is the reason that it is necessary to understand the literary techniques by which characters are created. Roy Johnson 2014 More on How-ToMore on literary studiesMore on writing skills Before we dive into the details of how to write a great character analysis lets make sure we on the same page by looking at the character analysis definition. A character analysis is a written body of work that analyzes the qualities and traits of a specific character. These characters are primarily from literary works, but can also be from cinema and television. The purpose of a character analysis is to dissect the various intricacies of a character and their role within a story. A character analysis should focus on the quality and function of a character in a story rather than on personal opinions on how the writer might feel about the character. A character analysis should dissect various types of characterization from the writer of the character to form a well-rounded analysis. ProtagonistAntagonistDynamicStaticFirst and foremost, its important to identify the type of character you're writing about. To identify the character type of your analysis here are two questions that are important to address: What is their function in the story? And how do they change or not change throughout the story?How to Do a Character AnalysisDetermine the characters functionA characters function in a story is incredibly important to understand because it gives context as to why the writer made specific choices around the character such as their goals, behavior, and even outward appearance. Depending on a characters function in the story they will fall under one of the following types: protagonist, antagonist, foil, or mentor. ProtagonistA protagonist is a character who pushes a story forward. He or she is also the central force of the story. Here's a video where break down the main types. Derived from the Greek words prtos and agnists, protagonist quite literally translates to first actor. In the Harry Potter series, Harry Potter is the protagonist. AntagonistAn antagonist is the force of a story that the protagonist contends with; whether it be human, natural or supernatural. Every protagonist needs an antagonistic force. Here is a quick rundown on antagonists. Derived from the Greek word agonizesthai, antagonist literally translates to English as to contend with. In the Harry Potter series, "He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named" is the antagonist. Alright well say it for clarity Lord Voldemort. FoilA foil character is a fictional character that serves to expose something intrinsic in another character. Oftentimes, the thing that is exposed is a character folly, like cowardice or greed. In the Harry Potter series, Draco Malfoy is often Harrys foil. MentorA mentor is a character that serves a guide and/or teacher for the storys protagonist. The mentor is an integral component of Joseph Cambells heros journey story structure. In the Harry Potter series, Albus Dumbledore is Harrys mentor. How to Write a Character AnalysisAnalyze the characters developmentThis second question will help you write a better character analysis because it addresses whether or not your character changes or does not change over the course of the story. Static characterA static character is a character that does not undergo any significant internal change over the course of a story. Throughout a story, a static character largely remains the same and does not grow or develop in a substantial way. Watch our character analysis of Marty McFly and his "flat arc" for a great example of a character who doesn't change. A dynamic character is a character that undergoes significant internal change over the course of a story. This change can happen subtly and gradually throughout the story and can be a change for better or worse. This is a character who often learns a lesson or changes in beliefs or principles. For a few examples that will drive home the differences between dynamic and static characters, check out this video breakdown below. Understanding what a characters function is and what their development is over time will help you determine the focus point of your character development analysis. When learning how to write a character analysis choosing a focus point is important for creating a thoughtful, and poignant analysis. Without a solid focus, you run the risk of writing a character synopsis and regurgitating facts and details the reader already knows about the character. To reverse engineer a focus point in your character analysis, ask yourself what the reader can learn from this character from a writers perspective? Is this character a complex hero? What makes this character memorable or iconic? In the video below, we analyze the character Anton Chigurh from No Country for Old Men and focus on what makes Chigurh the perfect antagonist. It can be difficult to land on the focus point of your character analysis right away. This is why it is important to first analyze the function of your character and their development throughout the story. In this process, you will find what makes this character unique and what readers can take away from your analysis. How to Do a Character AnalysisAnalyzing characterizationOnce you have your focus point, its time to gather evidence and support for your thesis. These pieces of support will derive from the characterization. Characterization is the process through which an artist communicates character to an audience. In writing, characterization is achieved through dialogue, actions, and descriptions. There is both direct characterization and indirect characterization. To help you analyze these two types of characterization, lets break them down. Direct characterization is surface level characterization. Its simply the overt information were given about a character, such as what they look like, what their job is, and what they appear to others. Many literary scholars describe this type of characterization as what were told about a character. An example of this can be found in The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway. Hemingway uses direct characterization to describe the main character writing Everything about him was old except his eyes and they were the same color as the sea and were cheerful and undefeated. Indirect characterizationIndirect characterization, on the other hand, is a subtype of characterization thats defined by showing rather than telling. It is an important technique used by writers for developing nuanced characters. It is primarily utilized through what the character says, thinks, and does. A common acronym for indirect characterization is STEAL which refers to speech, thinks, effect, action, and looks. These details often come from dialogue, goals, desires, and the history or background of the character. An example of indirect characterization can be found in Harper Lees To Kill a Mockingbird. Harper writes, First of all, he said, if you can learn a simple trick, Scout, youll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view. [] until you climb into his skin and walk around in it. As you continue to flesh out and write your character analysis you may hit some road blocks. A valuable tool to overcome these roadblocks are questions. Try to think of the character that you are analyzing as a person that actually exists that you are interviewing. What questions would you ask them to really understand who they are? Here are a few examples of character analysis questions to get you started. What are your values? What is your background? How did you grow up? How have you changed from what happened to you or through what you experienced? Is there a lesson you learned from all of this? While you may not be able to answer all of these questions from the characterization the author provides, its a great exercise to uncover what you may not have yet realized about this character. Character analyses are not only a dive into the craft of writing and storytelling, but an analysis of psychology and experience. When analyzing a character, its important to wear both hats to provide an insightful, well-rounded character analysis that is unique and thoughtfully presented. Up NextWhat is Characterization? As we mentioned above, characterization is incredibly important to understanding the characters of a great story. In our next article, we take a deeper dive into characterization and more examples of both indirect and direct characterization. Up Next: Characterization Explained

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