Elements of a Novel

1. Character

–the people in a story, book, play or a movie



--the characters’ personalities, motives and conflicts move the action along by creating interesting situations

--appearance, history, mannerisms

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cultivating character—how a character develops his/her personality (Aristotle had it right: The only way human beings can develop true character is through constant practice, until the ethical virtue itself becomes habit.)  “You take people, you put them on a journey, you give them peril, you find out who they really are.” ― Joss Whedon  Who is on this journey within the story? | C:\Users\cabeaton\Desktop\character 1.png |

**1. a**. Protagonist--the leading character or one of the major characters in a drama, movie, novel, or other fictional text

--the main figure or one of the most prominent figures in a real situation

--an advocate or champion of a particular cause or idea

|  |
| --- |
| Synonyms  chief/central/principal/main/leading player, principal, hero/heroine, leading man/lady, title role, lead |

**1. b.** Antagonist--a person who actively opposes or is hostile to someone or something; an adversary

|  |
| --- |
| Synonyms  adversary, opponent, enemy, foe, rival, competitor; opposition, competition |

(me--physical)Where I was big, elbowy and grating, he was small, gracefuland smooth. …he was lauded for his velvet-black skin. His hair fell down in black curls, and my head was covered with black steel wool. And yet he loved me. (Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,* ]Bantam, 1993], p. 17)

(we--physical)My brother Ben’s face, thought Eugene, is like a piece of slightly yellow ivory; his high white head is knotted fiercely by his old man’s scowl; his mouth is like a knife, his smile the flicker of light across a blade. His face is like a blade, and a knife, and a flicker of light: it is delicate and fierce, and scowls beautifully forever, and when he fastens his hard white fingers and his scowling eyes upon a thing he wants to fix, he sniffs with sharp and private concentration through his long, pointed nose…his hair shines like that of a young boy—it is crinkled and crisp as lettuce. (Thomas Wolfe, *Look Homeward, Angel* [Simon & Schuster, 1995, originally published 1929], p. 135)

(me--personality) ‘[Mrs. Ramsay] looked at him. He was such a miserable specimen, the children said, all humps and hollows. He couldn’t play cricket; he poked; he shuffled. He was a sarcastic brute, Andrew said. They knew what he liked best – to be for ever walking up and down, up and down, with Mr. Ramsay, saying who had won this, who had won that …’ (Virginia Woolf, *To The Lighthouse*, p. 11)

(we—personality) ‘He was a rich man: banker, merchant, manufacturer, and what not. A big, loud man, with a stare, and a metallic laugh. A man made out of coarse material, which seemed to have been stretched to make so much of him… A man who was always proclaiming, through that brassy speaking-trumpet of a voice of his, his old ignorance and his old poverty. A man who was the Bully of humility.’ (Charles Dickens, *Hard Times*, p. 18)

(you—physical and personality)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Guy Montag  (physical) | Text with page # |
|  |  |
| Guy Montag  (personality before) |  |
|  |  |
| Guy Montag  (personality after) |  |
|  |  |