

## Module 4: Self-Discovery Through Facing Life's Obstacles

### Topic 1 Content: Types of Characters

#### Introduction

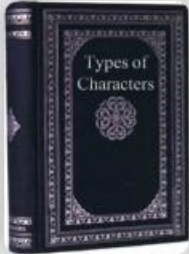
### Types of Characters

Flat

Round

Dynamic and Static

#### Introduction



A **character** is a fictitious person within a piece of literature. In this activity, you will learn about the different types of characters found in narratives. Click on each of the tabs to examine flat, round, dynamic, and static characters.

A **character** is a fictitious person within a piece of literature. In this activity, you will learn about the different types of characters found in narratives. Click on each of the tabs to examine flat, round, dynamic, and static characters.


## Module 4: Self-Discovery Through Facing Life's Obstacles

### Topic 1 Content: Types of Characters

#### Flat

### Types of Characters

Flat



**Flat** characters reveal only one personality or character trait throughout the narrative. Indiana Jones™, from the Indiana Jones™ movies was a flat character. In the series of four movies, he wore the same Snap Brim Fedora, he was skilled with his whip, and he was a professor of archeology. Another famous flat character is Han Solo, from the *Star Wars*™ movies. Han Solo was known for his sarcastic wit. Solo was grumpy but good-hearted, and he was a talented smuggler. In literature, Sherlock Holmes is a popular flat character. Known for pipe-smoking and being slightly neurotic but brilliant, Holmes always caught his "man."

**Flat** characters reveal only one personality or character trait throughout the narrative. Indiana Jones™, from the Indiana Jones™ movies was a flat character. In the series of four movies, he wore the same Snap Brim Fedora, he was skilled with his whip, and he was a professor of archeology. Another famous flat character is Han Solo, from the *Star Wars*™ movies. Han Solo was known for his sarcastic wit. Solo was grumpy but good-hearted, and he was a talented smuggler. In literature, Sherlock Holmes is a popular flat character. Known for pipe-smoking and being slightly neurotic but brilliant, Holmes always caught his "man."

*Illustration shows the flat character of Sherlock Holmes and sidekick Dr. Watson.*

## Module 4: Self-Discovery Through Facing Life's Obstacles

### Topic 1 Content: Types of Characters

#### Round

#### Types of Characters

Flat

Round

Dynamic and Static

#### Round



**Round** characters are known for their complexities. Round characters experience a significant development or change as the story progresses. Anakin Skywalker is a round character. Over the course of the *Star Wars*<sup>TM</sup> movies, Anakin turns from good to evil, and eventually becomes known as Darth Vader. Later, you find out he is the father of Luke Skywalker, adding to his complexity. From literature, a great example of a round character is Harry Potter<sup>TM</sup>. In the Harry Potter<sup>TM</sup> series, you witness a skinny, untalented, orphaned boy mature into a talented, fearless wizard. Throughout the series, Harry has many complexities he must overcome. J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* provides a famous

**Round** characters are known for their complexities. Round characters experience a significant development or change as the story progresses. Anakin Skywalker is a round character. Over the course of the *Star Wars*<sup>TM</sup> movies, Anakin turns from good to evil, and eventually becomes known as Darth Vader. Later, you find out he is the father of Luke Skywalker, adding to his complexity. From literature, a great example of a round character is Harry Potter<sup>TM</sup>. In the Harry Potter<sup>TM</sup> series, you witness a skinny, untalented, orphaned boy mature into a talented, fearless wizard. Throughout the series, Harry has many complexities he must overcome. J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* provides a famous round character through Bilbo Baggins. Bilbo Baggins begins his tale as a hobbit who does not want to leave his home. Over the course of his stories in the *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, you find out that Bilbo Baggins matures into quite the adventurer after he finds a magical ring.

*Illustration of a hobbit much like Bilbo Baggins. Illustration Courtesy of Antoine Glédel.*

## Module 4: Self-Discovery Through Facing Life's Obstacles

### Topic 1 Content: Types of Characters

#### Dynamic and Static


### Types of Characters

Flat

Round

Dynamic and Static

#### Dynamic and Static



A **static** character does not change throughout the course of the narrative, meaning that the character is essentially the same at the end as he or she was at the beginning. A **dynamic** character is one that undergoes an important change in the course of the narrative. The change in the dynamic character takes place within the character. This means that the character has a change in insight, understanding, commitment, or values. From the Harry Potter™ series, Lord Voldemort is a static character. Voldemort does not change throughout the entire series. A dynamic character in *The Lord of the Rings* is Frodo Baggins. After Frodo takes on the burden of destroying the ring, the ring changes him. He goes through an inner conflict. Perhaps the best example of a dynamic character in literature is in Charles Dickens' 1843 novel, *A Christmas Carol*. In the beginning of the novel, Scrooge is a greedy, cold, shrill man who despises Christmas. After a visit from the three Ghosts of Christmas, Scrooge undergoes a major inner change and embraces the holiday spirit.

A **static** character does not change throughout the course of the narrative, meaning that the character is essentially the same at the end as he or she was at the beginning. A **dynamic** character is one that undergoes an important change in the course of the narrative. The change in the dynamic character takes place within the character. This means that the character has a change in insight, understanding, commitment, or values. From the Harry Potter™ series, Lord Voldemort is a static character. Voldemort does not change throughout the entire series. A dynamic character in *The Lord of the Rings* is Frodo Baggins. After Frodo takes on the burden of destroying the ring, the ring changes him. He goes through an inner conflict. Perhaps the best example of a dynamic character in literature is in Charles Dickens' 1843 novel, *A Christmas Carol*. In the beginning of the novel, Scrooge is a greedy, cold, shrill man who despises Christmas. After a visit from the three Ghosts of Christmas, Scrooge undergoes a major inner change and embraces the holiday spirit.

*Illustration of Marley's ghost, from Charles Dickens: A Christmas Carol, 1843.*