Module 4: The Novel – *Animal Farm*
Topic 5 Content: Characterization in *Animal Farm* Notes

Introduction

You already know quite a bit about identifying the different types of characters in a narrative work. Now, apply those different categories of characters to the creatures of *Animal Farm*. In this interactivity, click on each of the tabs to see examples of how characters from the novel can be classified.
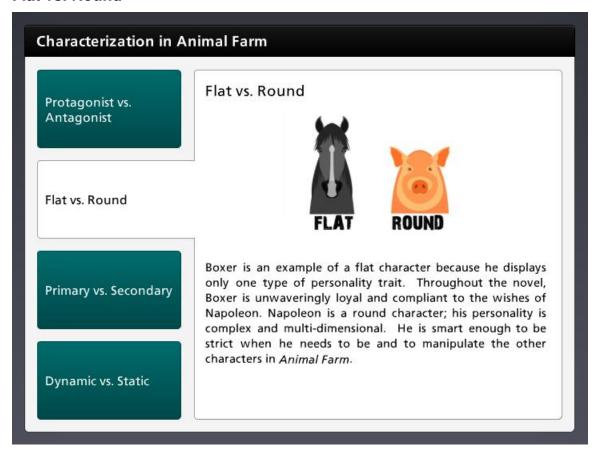
Protagonist vs. Antagonist

Since there are so many characters with different motivations in the novel, it is difficult to identify the protagonist and antagonist in *Animal Farm*. The most identifiable protagonists are the working animals of the farm, except for the pigs. As a group, they are the main characters of the narrative and they are working towards a worthy cause. The antagonists are the pigs, specifically Napoleon and Squealer. They work against the best interests of the general farm animal population by stealing food an abusing them.
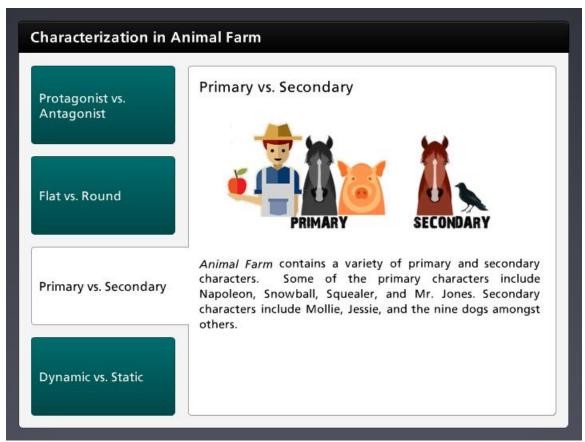
Flat vs. Round

Boxer is an example of a flat character because he displays only one type of personality trait. Throughout the novel, Boxer is unwaveringly loyal and compliant to the wishes of Napoleon. Napoleon is a round character; his personality is complex and multi-dimensional. He is smart enough to be strict when he needs to be and to manipulate the other characters in *Animal Farm*.
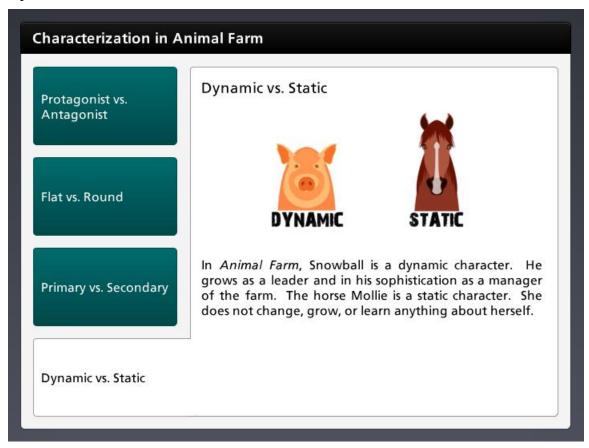
Primary vs. Secondary

Animal Farm contains a variety of primary and secondary characters. Some of the primary characters include Napoleon, Snowball, Squealer, and Mr. Jones. Secondary characters include Mollie, Jessie, and the nine dogs amongst others.

Dynamic vs. Static

In *Animal Farm*, Snowball is a dynamic character. He grows as a leader and in his sophistication as a manager of the farm. The horse Mollie is a static character. She does not change, grow, or learn anything about herself.