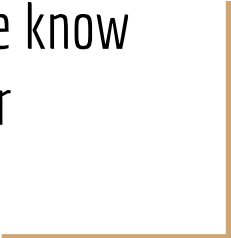




Methods of Characterization

How we know what we know
about a character



Characterization

- Also known as character development
- The way an author reveals information about a character
 - Readers make inferences based on known information
 - Open to interpretation
 - What does it say? What does it mean? Why does it matter?
- Very intentional

1. Physical Description

- What a person looks like
 - Gender
 - Race
 - Stature & posture
 - Clothing & jewelry
 - Eye contact

2. Attitude

- How a character feels about events, things, & people
- How a character approaches a situation

3. Dialogue

- What a character says out loud
- What a character thinks
- How a character talks
 - Word choice
 - Meter

4. Reactions of Others

- How other people view that character
- Feelings the character inspires in others

5. Actions & Reactions

- What a character does in general
- How a character reacts to specific situations
 - “It is our choices...that show us for what we truly are...”
(Rowling 333).

6. Physical & Emotional Setting

- Where a character is physically
 - Location
- Where a character is emotionally
 - How he/she feels
 - Mental health