

# Character Analysis

# Main Characters

- **Protagonist** -The main character around whom most of the work revolves.
- **Antagonist** - The person who the protagonist is against. This is often the villain, but could be a force of nature, set of circumstances, an animal, etc.

# Protagonists patterns or types:

- o ***the anti-hero*** -This is the guy parents would not want their daughters to date. They are often graceless, inept, and actually dishonest.
- o ***the tragic hero*** -This is the guy whose bad end is a result of flaws within himself.
- o ***the romantic hero*** - This is the guy the girls all swoon over. He gets the girls, even when he doesn't want to keep them.
- o ***the modern hero*** -This is the average guy who is put in extraordinary circumstances and rises to the challenge.
- o ***the Hemingway hero***, This is the guy who has been in a war, drinks too much, and makes poor choices.

# Types

- **Static** (unchanging)
- **Dynamic** (changing)
- **Stereotypical** - This is the absent minded professor, the jolly fat person, the clueless blonde.

# Round or Flat?

- **Round** (*3 dimensional*), This means the character has more than one facet to his/her personality. He is not just a hardcore gamer, but he also plays basketball on the weekends.
- **Flat** (*1 dimensional*), This is the character who is only viewed through one side. This is the hardcore gamer. That's all there is to the character.

# Round character changes during the course of the story

- o Was the change gradual or rapid?
- o Was it subtle or obvious?
- o Are the changes significant to the story or are they a minor counterpoint?
- o Are the changes believable or fantastic?
- o What was his/her motivation to change?
- o What situations or characters encouraged the change?
- o How does the character learn from or deal with the change?

# Major & Minor

- o **Major** - These are the main characters. They dominate the story. Often there are only one or two major characters.
- o **Minor** - These are the characters who help tell the major character's tale by letting major characters interact and reveal their personalities, situations, stories. They are usually static (unchanging).

# Foils

- o These are the people whose job is to contrast with the major character.
  - o This can happen in two ways.
    - o One: The foil can be the opposite of the major character, so the major's virtues and strengths are that much "brighter" in reflection.
    - o Two: The foil can be someone like the major character, with lite versions of the major's virtues and strengths so that the major comes off as even stronger.



# Look for these things within the creation of the character:

## o Psychological/Personality traits:

- o Do these characteristics aid in the character being consistent (in character), believable, adequately motivated, and interesting?
- o Do the characteristics of the character emphasize and focus on the character's role in the story's plot?

## o Motivation:

- o Is the character ethical? Is he/she trying to do the right thing, but going about it in the wrong way?
- o Is the motivation because of emotion (love, hate) or a decision (revenge, promotion)?

o **Behavior /Actions:**

- o Does the character act in a certain way consistently?
- o Or is the character erratic?
- o Could one pluck the character from the story, put him/her in another story, and know how he/she would react?

o **Relationships:**

- o With other characters in the story
- o How others see/react to him/her

o **Weaknesses/Faults:**

- o Typical tragic weakness is pride. Oedipus is proud.
- o Weakness could be anything. In “Little Red Riding Hood,” the girl talks to a stranger. That’s a weakness.

o **Strengths/Virtues:**

- o There are many different strengths and virtues.
- o One strength/virtue is being good in trying times, like Cinderella.
- o Another strength/virtue is caring for family, like Little Red Riding Hood.
- o Another strength/virtue is being smart, like Oedipus.
- o Most protagonists have more than one strength/virtue.

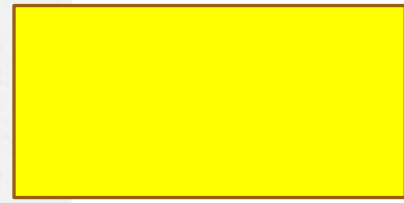
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Name  
Thoughts

Actions



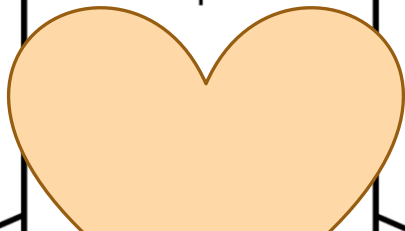
Background



Description

Friends

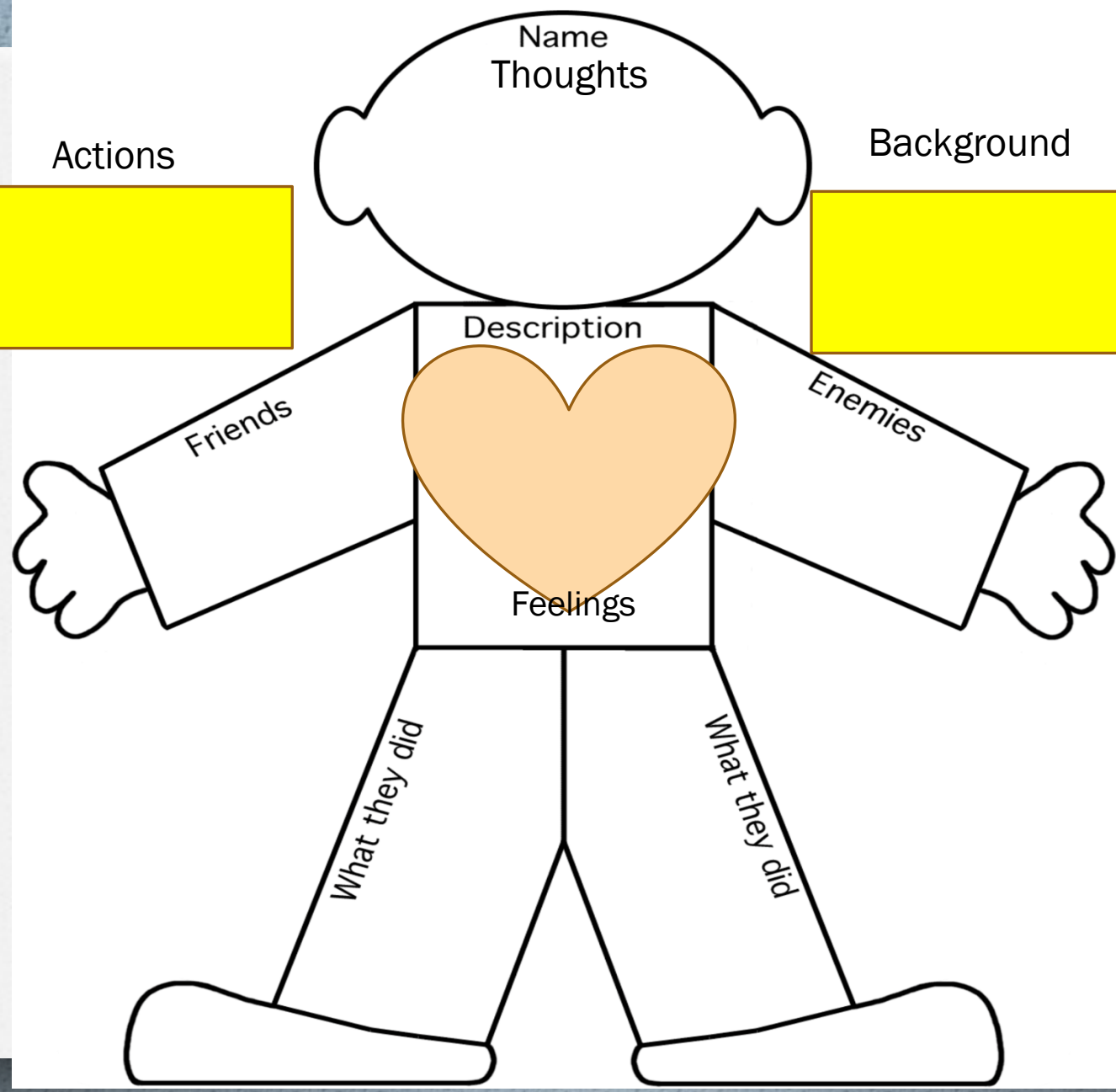
Enemies



Feelings

What they did

What they did



o Using the character analysis terms. How would you describe Montmorency? Cite evidence from the book using quotes with page numbers.

o Protagonist Pattern Type

o Static or Dynamic

o Round or Flat

o Stereotypical

o Behavior /Actions

o Relationships

o Weaknesses/Faults

o Strengths/Virtues