

Characterization

Characterization is the means an author uses to develop a character in a story. There are a number of ways that this can be done:

A) Direct Characterization: this is where information is stated directly either by the narrator, by the character him/herself, or by other characters in the story. In this case, the information is stated directly and there is no need for analysis as the meaning is obvious.

Example: *“He was only sixteen after all” (Trease, p.14).*
Here the narrator is stating that Peter's brother is 16 years old.

B) Indirect Characterization: this is where information is inferred through any of the following ways:

1. What a character says about him/herself.
2. How a character behaves in a situation, or towards other characters.
3. What a character says about others.
4. How others behave toward the character.
5. What others say about the character,
6. How a character walks, dresses or presents him/herself in general.
7. What a character thinks.

In Indirect Characterization, the reader must create meaning by analysing the clues and building a prediction about the character.

Example:

“Though I was only fourteen, I had been counted in with the men” (p.15).

This is a statement made by the narrator about himself. He is stating that although he was only young, he was still being trusted to do men's work and to keep a secret kept only by men. This means that he feels proud about being “one of the men”.