**Chapter 4: Writing About Character: Terminology**

**Character:** a verbal representation of a human being through **action**, **speech**, **description**, and **commentary**

**Trait:** a quality of mind or habitual that is evident in both active or passive ways

**Round** characters: we are told enough to about them to conclude that they are three dimensional, rounded, authentic, memorable, original, and true to life.

**Flat** characters: simple and one-dimensional.

**Static:** unchanging, not dynamic.

**Stock character:** used to describe characters that who appear in repeated situations. They are often considered representatives of their class or group.

**Stereotype:** characters that exhibit conventional and unindividual traits. They all seem to be cast in the same mold.

**Verisimilitude, probability, plausibility:** in order to be true to life, characters should exhibit actions, statements, and thoughts that human beings are likely to do, say, and think under the conditions presented in the literary work.

In groups:

* List three of the different characters we have met so far in the story. What traits do they exhibit?
* Are they round or flat characters? Why?
* Do you think any of the characters are stereotypes? Why?
* Do the characters’ actions, thoughts, speech seem plausible/probable? That is, do they exhibit verisimilitude? Why or why not?