

Dear Parents or Guardians:

Please encourage your child to read 20-minutes a day all summer long. We partner with the Princeton Public Library and recommend all students register for "A Universe of Stories," the 2019 Youth Summer Reading Program.

Appreciatively,

English Department
John H. Witherspoon Middle School

Please indicate below your approval of your child's reading:

Title: _____

Author: _____

Parent/Guardian
Signature: _____ Date _____

Name _____ Period _____

**Questions students can expect to see from their teachers
upon their return from summer vacation**

For Fiction Reading...

Dynamic Character

A dynamic character is often easier to build a compelling story around. Dynamic character might go through a major life transition, have a coming-of-age experience, pull through trials and tribulations, mature, have a change of heart or develop more likeable qualities -- or take a turn for the worse. A common misconception is that a dynamic character has an electric, charismatic personality. In fact, the term "dynamic" doesn't define the character's qualities, but rather refers to how those qualities change over time.

Dynamic characters are often easier to spot than static ones. A clear example of a dynamic character is Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens' novel, *A Christmas Carol*. His evolution was dramatic as he went from a miserly scrooge to a generous giver after encounters with three ghosts. Another dynamic character is Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz*. She starts out as a character that is timid and naive and develops into one that is confident, assertive, and more worldly.

Static Character

Essentially, a static character is largely the same person at the end of the story as he was in the beginning. Any character in a compelling story experiences some life

changes and variation in his environment, but what distinguishes a static character is usually his existing persona, confidence and appeal to readers. More compelling, heroic and charismatic characters often work better as static characters than ones who must undergo change to appeal to the audience and to significantly affect a story.

Change isn't always a good thing, nor necessary. Static characters can go entire seasons or books without changing or experiencing the character development that a more dynamic character does. A static character does not mean that the character is boring; many times the static characters are useful in secondary roles, serving as yardsticks against which your central (and Dynamic) character's growth can be a counter. The Wicked Witch of the West from *The Wizard of Oz* and Scar from *The Lion King* are both static characters as key aspects of their character do not change.

For Fiction Reading...

- 1.** What is important about the change that a dynamic character exhibits? And why is this important?
- 2.** Why is it important that this static character does not undergo an important change?
- 3.** There are plenty of compelling characters who encounter conflict, yet do not change all that much over the course of a story. If this is the case with your novel, explain how maintaining his/her nature/personality played a role in the book.
- 4.** What conflict does your character face that caused him/her to change in order to overcome circumstances?
- 5.** How is the main character changing? What is he or she learning about life and the role he or she plays in it?

For Nonfiction Reading...

- 1.** What kind of research do you think the author had to do to write this book?
- 2.** Give some examples of specific clue words the author uses that let you know s/he is stating an opinion or a fact.
- 3.** Does this book provide recent information? Where could you look to find more information about the topic?

(Students: Return this completed paper to your English teacher during the first week of school.)