TECHNIQUES FOR DEVELOPING CHARACTER

Although Plot is important, quite often the CHARACTERS in the story are even more important. There are many ways to show characters – that could be people, animals, sci-fi creatures or whatever you choose. The first time a character appears in the story, it is important to make that character real and living in the mind of the reader.

HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO DEVELOP CHARACTER IN YOUR STORY:

1. Direct Description , with many Details (DDD)

*He weighed three hundred pounds, had greasy black hair hanging down over his squinty little eyes, and his broken nose was covered with red blotches.*

1. Limited Description, leaves the rest for the reader to fill in (LD)

*His mother stood there, stiff as a ramrod.*

1. Describing the Clothes the Character wears (CC)

*She wore long, dangling golden earrings, heavy strands of junky beads, a tie-dyed shirt, long peasant skirt, and squeaky sandals; no make-up.*

1. From the Way the Character Speaks (WCS)

*“Get out of my way you miserable idiots!”*

1. From the Way Others React to the character (WOR)

*The moment he entered the room, all conversation suddenly died.*

1. From the Way Others Speak to the character (WOS)

*“Yes, your majesty, of course. Is there anything else your majesty might desire?”*

1. From the Voice of the Character (VC)

*Her voice was as sweet as honey, and made everyone feel so very happy.*

1. From the Actions of the Character (AC)

*He was everywhere except the chair: jumping around the room, brandishing his scissors in the air, trying to persuade the woman he was working on to let him loose on her head.*