Three Elements of Characterization

- **Physical appearance**
  What does the character look like?

- **Actions, speech, and behavior**
  What does the character do? How does the character behave? What does the character say?

- **Interactions with others**
  How other characters in the story react to this character

Other vocabulary terms useful in developing characters:

**Protagonist** - The main character in a story. The protagonist experiences the conflict in the story. The protagonist does not have to be “good.”

**Antagonist** - The cause of the conflict. The antagonist doesn’t have to be a person.

**Dialogue** - The words a character uses in conversation and how they are used gives the reader insight into the character.

**Stereotype** - A character that is over simplified. Lacks originality or individuality.