

Round and Flat Characters

Flat Characters

- Characters that are not described well, that you're not given much information about, are flat characters. Consider a drawing: a three dimensional drawing gives more detail than a one dimensional drawing. If you draw a flat picture of a house, for example, you can only see one side of it. You cannot see three of the four sides. *This is how a flat character is; you can only see a few characteristics of the character.* There are many things you cannot "see", or many details you are not given by the author.

Round Characters

- *Characters that are described in depth, with many details, are well-rounded characters.* They are called round characters. If you're reading a story and you feel like you know a character extremely well, then most likely the character is round. The main character in a story is almost always round, but there are exceptions.

As a reader, judge whether or not the character is round or flat by trying to write down characteristics of the character.

Answer the question: **What do you know about the character?**

If your list is long, with many characteristics, then the character is round. If your list is short, or there's not many characteristics at all, then the character is flat.

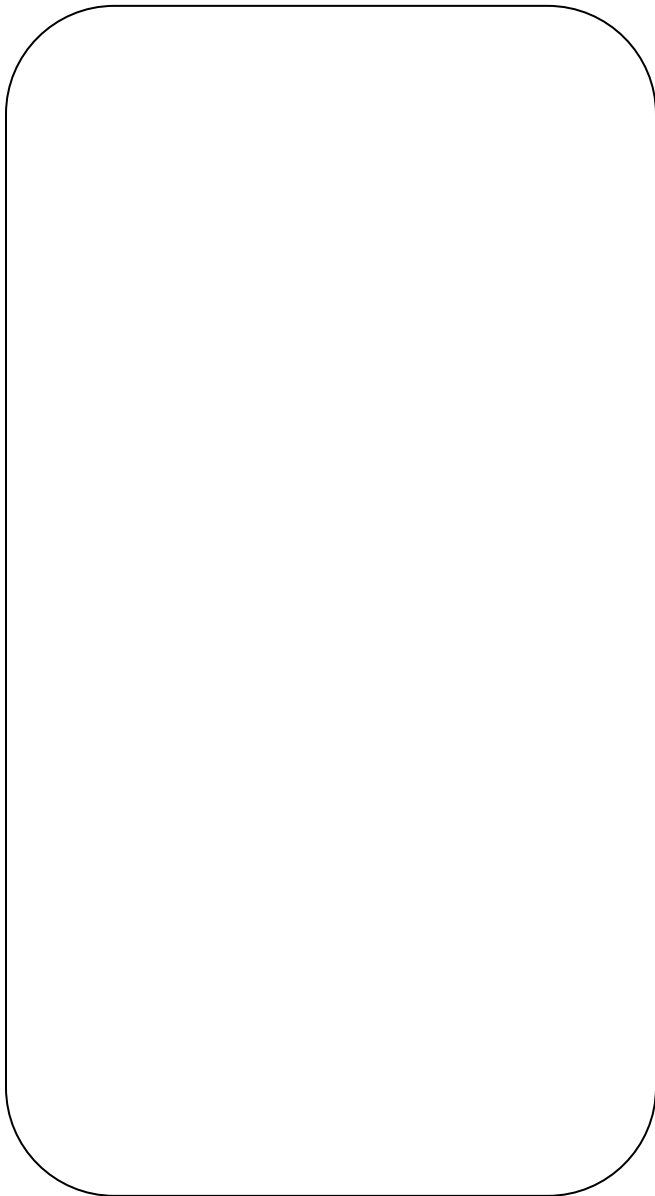
Consider the following things when judging whether a character is round or flat:

- **Feelings** - Does the character have a range of believable emotions?
- **Description** - What physically do we know about the character? How do they dress, or carry themselves?
- **Behavior** - Does the character show a wide range of behaviors, similar to what real people do? Do their behaviors change appropriately based on circumstances?
- **Personality** - Does the character's personality have multiple facets? Are they driven by different motivations? What things do they want? What do they think about? Does this seem like a real person?

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Character Map - Round or Flat?

Dee from "Everyday Use"



Draw a picture of what you imagine Dee to look like in this box. Think about her clothes, the way she acts, or any other clues that you are given to you in the story.

Is she a
FLAT
or
ROUND
character?

FEELINGS _____

DESCRIPTION _____

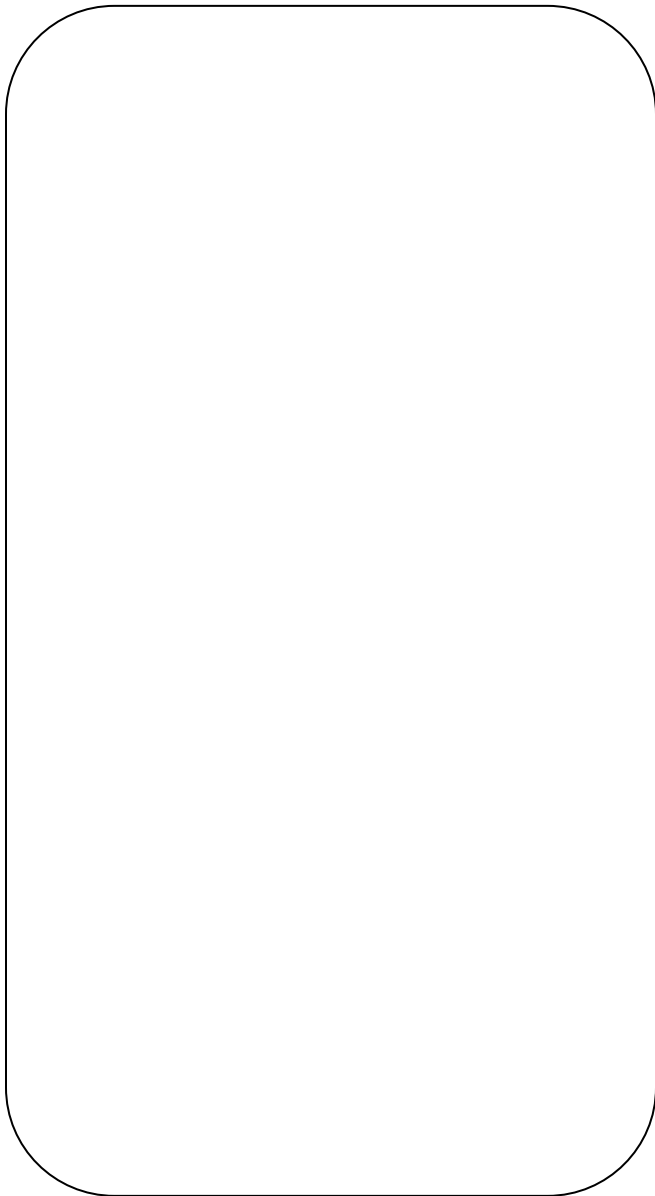
BEHAVIORS _____

PERSONALITY _____

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Character Map - Round or Flat?

Asalamalakim from "Everyday Use"



Draw a picture of what you imagine Asalamalakim to look like in this box. Think about his clothes, the way he acts, or any other clues that you are given to you in the story.

Is he a
FLAT
or
ROUND
character?

FEELINGS _____

DESCRIPTION _____

BEHAVIORS _____

PERSONALITY _____

