ELEMENTS OF CHARACTERIZATION

We are going to revise the features that allow us to analyze different kind of characters.
There are two kinds of character:
- Flat character (it remains the same along all the novel,it doesn't change, it doesn't show a development)
- Round character (whose personality develops during the novel)

What do you mean by characterization?
It is the way a character comes to life, so the intelligent reader should analyze the categories the narrator exploits to create the character (physical description, social background, his job, his relationships with the other characters, what other people think to him, the language he speaks, his cultural background).

Most of the times the categories the narrator exploits are mixed up, some are given more space than others.

How does the character come to life? Character is made of language. A narrator can use different technics when he brings characters to life:
- Telling = it tells the reader everything about the character; everything the reader knows, all the ideas the reader makes up in his mind about the character are filtered by the narrator.
- Showing = the narrator shows the character in action (through dialogue)

What is the position of the reader in the 2 cases?
If the most frequent technique is the technic of showing, he can make up a more personal idea of the character. If the narrator mainly uses the technic of telling, the reader is less free to make up a personal idea.

What is the narrator in chapter 2? He's introducing a new character.

The new character is:
- very different from Vic Wilcox
- she doesn't believe in the concept of character (her cultural background)
- "That is to say" (a favourite phrase of her own)
- her name (Robyn)>>>> deal person>>> socially committed
- her surname (Penrose)>>>> the reader might expect she is a writer
- her job>>>> she teaches at Rummidge University
- her social status is not stable
- her skills are mainly in the field of literature
- her specific convictions>>>> the character is a bourgeois myth

Third person omission intrusive narrator.