ELEMENTS OF ANALYSIS OF CHARACTERIZATION

When speaking about a character you have to distnguish between:

-**flat character**: Who remains the same along the all novel, it doesn't change, it doesn't show a parabola or a development;

-**round character**: Is one that develops along the story.

When we analyse the character what would we mean by characterisation? Characterisation is the way a character comes to life, so the intelligent reader should analyse the categories the narrator exploits to create the character ( Physical description, social background, his job, his relationship with other characters, what other people think of him, the language he speaks, his cultural background).

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

How does the character come to life?

A narrator can use different techniques when he brings a character to life:

- **Telling** > he tells the reader everything about the character; everything the reader knows, all the ideas the reader makes up in his mind about the character, is filtered by the narrator.

- **Showing** > the narrator shows the character in action, through dialogue.

What is the position of the reader in the two cases?

If the most frequent technique is **showing**, he can make up a more personal idea of the character.

If the narrator mainly uses the technique of the **telling**, the reader is less free to make up a personal idea.

In paragraph 2 of the first chapter of David Lodge's "Nice Work!", the narrator is introducing a new character. The new character (Robyn Penrose) is:

1) very different from Vic Wilcox > per differenza (use of contrast)

2) she doesn't believe in the concept of the character > per idee (her cultural convictions)

3) "that is to say ( a favourite phrase of her own)" > intercalare

4)her name ( Robyn) > name of a ideal person (> Robin Hood), socially committed

5) her surname (Penrose) > the reader might expect she is a writer

6) her job > she teaches at Rummidge University

7) her social status is not stable

8) her skills are mainly in the field of literature > cultural background

9) her specific convictions > she holds that the character is a bourgeous myth and an illusion created to reinforce the ideology of capitalism

10) her body language

The narrator prefers to use the technique of **telling** to characterize Robyn.

Third person omniscient intrusive narrator > sa tutto

Caratterizzazione= prendere in esame quali categorie il narratore ha scelto di privilegiare.