

When An Author Makes A Statement About A Character It Is Called_____.

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Understanding the terminology and significance behind an author's statements about their characters is essential for appreciating literature, storytelling, and character development. This article explores the various ways authors communicate their insights, intentions, and perceptions about characters through their writing. We will delve into the specific terms used to describe these statements, their roles in narrative construction, and their impact on readers' interpretations.

Introduction to Author's Statements About Characters

Authors, as creators of stories and characters, often embed their perspectives, biases, and insights directly or indirectly through their writing. These statements can appear explicitly within the narrative, through dialogue, or implicitly via descriptive language and literary devices. Recognizing and understanding these statements helps readers grasp the author's intentions, the depth of characters, and the thematic messages conveyed.

Key Terminology: What Is the Term for When an Author Makes a Statement About a Character?

The specific term for a statement made by an author about a character varies depending on context, purpose, and formality. Several important terms are used in literary analysis to describe these authorial comments.

Direct Characterization

Definition:

Direct characterization occurs when the author explicitly describes a character's traits, motivations, or qualities. This can be seen as the author making a clear statement about a character's personality or attributes.

Example:

"John was a kind-hearted man who always helped others."

In this case, the author directly states John's kindness.

Significance:

Direct characterization provides straightforward information about characters, establishing their roles in the story and guiding reader perception.

Author's Commentary or Authorial Statement

Definition:

An author's commentary refers to explicit remarks or statements made by the author within the text that clarify, interpret, or provide insight into a character's actions or personality.

Example:

A narrator might comment, "Despite her tough exterior, Lisa was deeply vulnerable."
This is an explicit statement about Lisa, provided by the author/narrator.

Significance:

Such statements assist in shaping readers' understanding and can influence how they interpret the character's behavior.

Authorial Intrusion

Definition:

Authorial intrusion refers to moments when the author steps into the narrative to directly comment on a character or situation, often breaking the fourth wall or addressing the reader.

Example:

In some classic novels, the author might say, "This character's actions are driven by her desire for justice," directly informing the reader.

Significance:

This technique emphasizes certain traits or themes and highlights the author's perspective.

Character Description and Characterization Techniques

While not a statement per se, the detailed descriptions and characterization techniques serve as indirect statements about a character. These include physical descriptions, actions, thoughts, and dialogue that reveal personality traits and motivations.

Literary Devices Signaling Author's Statements

Authors often use literary devices like epithets, symbolism, or metaphors to make subtle statements about characters.

- Epithets: Descriptive phrases highlighting qualities (e.g., "the brave soldier").
- Symbolism: Using symbols to represent character traits.
- Metaphors: Comparing characters to abstract ideas.

These devices serve as indirect statements about characters' nature and significance.

The Role of Statements About Characters in Literary Analysis

Understanding how authors make statements about characters is fundamental in literary analysis. Such statements help uncover themes, character development arcs, and authorial intent.

Clarifying Character Traits

Explicit statements allow readers to quickly grasp essential traits, especially in complex narratives or when characters are ambiguous.

Revealing Themes and Messages

Author statements about characters often serve to reinforce themes. For example, describing a character as “corrupt” might underscore themes of morality or societal decay.

Influencing Reader Perception

The way an author describes or comments on a character influences reader sympathy, judgment, or understanding.

Examples of When Authors Make Statements About Characters

To better understand the concept, consider these examples from literature:

- **Jane Austen’s “Pride and Prejudice”:** Austen makes direct and indirect statements about Elizabeth Bennet’s wit and independence through narrative descriptions and dialogue.
- **Charles Dickens’ “Great Expectations”:** Dickens often uses direct characterization to highlight Pip’s social aspirations and moral struggles.
- **Haruki Murakami’s “Norwegian Wood”:** Murakami’s narration provides insights into characters’ inner feelings, often through explicit statements about their emotional states.

Related Literary Terms and Their Distinctions

Understanding the terminology helps differentiate between various ways authors communicate about characters.

Indirect Characterization

Definition:

The author reveals a character's traits through actions, dialogue, or effects on others, rather than directly stating them.

Example:

A character's kindness is shown through their willingness to help others, rather than being explicitly described.

Inner Monologue and Stream of Consciousness

Definition:

Authors often use inner monologue to directly convey a character's thoughts, providing statements about their internal state.

Conclusion: The Significance of Author's Statements About Characters

When an author makes a statement about a character, whether explicitly or implicitly, it plays a crucial role in shaping the narrative, guiding reader interpretation, and highlighting thematic elements. Recognizing these statements enhances literary analysis, allowing readers to appreciate the depth of storytelling and the nuances of character development.

In summary:

- When an author explicitly describes a character's traits, it is often called direct characterization or an authorial statement.
- When the author comments on a character's motivations or personality through narration or literary devices, it may be termed author's commentary, authorial intrusion, or literary description.
- These statements are vital tools for authors to communicate their vision and for readers to interpret the story's deeper meaning.

By understanding these concepts, readers can engage more critically with texts, uncover subtle messages, and appreciate the artistry involved in character creation and development.

Frequently Asked Questions

When an author makes a statement about a character, what is this technique called?

It is called an 'authorial comment' or 'narratorial comment'.

What term describes the author's explicit remark about a character's traits or motivations?

This is often referred to as an 'author's commentary' or 'direct characterization'.

In literature, what is it called when an author directly states their opinion or observation about a character?

This is called an 'authorial remark' or 'author's observation'.

What is the name of the literary device used when the author makes a statement about a character that reveals their personality?

It is called 'direct characterization' or 'authorial commentary'.

When an author makes a statement about a character to guide the reader's perception, what is this technique called?

This technique is called 'authorial intrusion' or 'direct comment'.

How do authors usually indicate when they are making a statement about a character?

Authors often use narrative voice, footnotes, or direct statements within the text to make such comments.

Is there a specific term for the author's statement about a character that helps define their role or personality?

Yes, it is known as 'authorial commentary' or 'direct characterization'.

Additional Resources

When An Author Makes A Statement About A Character It Is Called ____.

Understanding the mechanics of storytelling and character development is essential for appreciating how authors craft compelling narratives. One fundamental aspect of this process involves the author's direct or indirect commentary about a character, which reveals insights, biases, or thematic intentions. When an author makes a statement about a character, it is called authorial commentary or authorial intrusion. This article explores what this concept entails, its significance in literature, and how it influences the reader's perception of characters and themes.

What Is Authorial Commentary?

Authorial commentary refers to the moments in a text where the author explicitly or implicitly provides insights, judgments, or remarks about a character. These statements can appear in the narrative voice, through direct narration, or via the author's use of language, tone, or structure. Such commentary serves to guide the reader's understanding, shape perceptions, or emphasize particular qualities of the character.

For example, an author might describe a character as “a man of great integrity” or “a woman driven by greed,” which are direct statements that influence how the reader perceives that character. Sometimes, the author’s remarks are more subtle, woven into the narrative or dialogue, requiring careful interpretation.

Types of Authorial Statements About Characters

Authorial statements about characters can be categorized based on their tone, placement, and purpose:

1. Direct Character Description

Explicit descriptions where the author states specific qualities or traits.

Example: “John was a generous and kind-hearted man,” directly informs the reader about John.

2. Judgments or Opinions

Statements where the author reveals a subjective evaluation of a character’s actions or personality.

Example: “It was clear that she was manipulative,” suggests a moral judgment.

3. Internal Monologue and Free Indirect Discourse

When the narrative reflects the character’s thoughts or feelings, often blending the author’s voice with the character’s.

Example: “He wondered if she could truly be trusted,” showing internal perspective with subtle authorial influence.

4. Authorial Intrusion or Asides

Moments where the author steps in directly, offering insights or commentary outside the narrative flow, often breaking the fourth wall or adding a meta-narrative layer.

Example: An author might comment on a character's motivations in a footnote or aside.

The Significance of Authorial Statements in Literature

Authorial comments about characters serve multiple purposes in storytelling:

1. Clarifying Character Traits and Motivations

They help the reader understand complex characters, especially when actions may be ambiguous or contradictory.

2. Conveying Themes and Moral Judgments

Authors can use character descriptions to emphasize themes, such as morality, corruption, innocence, or betrayal.

3. Shaping Reader Perception and Bias

By framing a character in a certain way, the author influences the reader's emotional response and judgment.

4. Creating Irony or Satire

Sometimes, the author's statements contrast with the character's actions, creating irony or satire.

Examples in Literature

Many classic and contemporary works feature authorial statements about characters:

- Jane Austen's subtle judgments in her descriptions often reveal societal attitudes.
- Charles Dickens frequently provides moral evaluations of characters through direct narration.
- George Orwell's commentary on characters like Winston Smith reflects broader political themes.

The Role of Point of View and Narrative Voice

The perspective from which a story is told influences how and when an author makes statements about characters:

- First-person narration often includes the narrator's personal opinions, which may act as authorial commentary.
- Third-person omniscient narrators can directly comment on multiple characters' traits and motivations.
- Limited narration tends to reveal characters' thoughts and traits through their perspective, sometimes blending the author's voice.

When Is It Called "Authorial Intrusion"?

A specific term closely related to "authorial statement" is authorial intrusion. This occurs when the author interrupts the narrative flow to offer personal opinions, judgments, or comments about the characters or plot. Such intrusions can be stylistic choices that serve to:

- Highlight a moral or philosophical point
- Emphasize a particular trait or flaw
- Critique societal norms

In classic literature, authorial intrusions were more common, whereas modern authors tend to favor subtlety and allow readers to interpret characters themselves.

The Impact of Authorial Statements on Reader Engagement

The way an author makes statements about characters can significantly influence the reader's engagement:

- Enhances understanding: Clear descriptions help readers grasp complex characters.
- Guides emotional response: Judgments evoke sympathy, disdain, or admiration.
- Creates trust or skepticism: The tone of the commentary can make readers question the reliability of the narrator or the author's intent.

Modern Perspectives and Techniques

Contemporary authors often avoid overt authorial statements, favoring show, don't tell techniques. However, when used intentionally, authorial commentary remains a powerful tool:

- To develop ironic distance or meta-fictional commentary.
- To critique societal norms or literary conventions.
- To add humor, satire, or layered meaning.

Practical Tips for Recognizing and Analyzing Authorial Statements

If you're analyzing a text for authorial statements about characters, consider these steps:

- Identify direct descriptions: Look for adjectives or explicit judgments.
- Note narrative tone: Is the narration objective, sympathetic, sarcastic, or critical?
- Examine context: When does the statement occur? Is it before, during, or after key actions?
- Compare with actions: Do the statements align with or contrast against the character's

behavior?

- Assess the purpose: What might the author be trying to communicate through this statement?

Conclusion

When an author makes a statement about a character, it is fundamentally an act of authorial commentary or authorial intrusion. This technique serves as a vital bridge between the writer's intentions and the reader's understanding, shaping perceptions and enriching the narrative. Recognizing these statements and understanding their purpose allows readers to engage more deeply with the text, uncover layered meanings, and appreciate the craftsmanship behind character development. Whether subtle or overt, authorial statements remain a cornerstone of literary analysis and storytelling excellence.

In summary, the act of an author making a statement about a character is best described as authorial commentary or authorial intrusion. Whether through direct narration, judgments, or narrative tone, these statements influence how characters are perceived and how themes are communicated, making them an essential aspect of literary analysis and storytelling mastery.

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