

KEY VOCABULARY/CONCEPT:	STOCK CHARACTERS:	STOCK CHARACTERS (CONTD.)
<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> STEREOTYPES, ARCHETYPES, STOCK CHARACTERS, TROPES AND CLICHES </div> <p>An archetype is a recurring symbol or motif in literature that represents universal patterns of human nature.</p> <p>A stereotype is a character with generalized character traits.</p> <p>A stereotype is a conventional, formulaic, and oversimplified conception, opinion, or image while a trope in literature is something recurring across a genre or type of literature, such as the 'mad scientist' of horror movies or 'once upon a time' as an introduction to fairy tales (similar to an archetype but not necessarily in a negative, pejorative or disapproving way).</p> <p>A stock character is a stereotypical fictional character who is instantly recognisable to the reader or audience from other stories: the gruff grandpa, the snooty cheerleader, the bratty younger sibling. Their role in a story can often be summed up in a sentence or less and people will know exactly who you are talking about. They are archetypal and are frequently one-dimensional in nature. Sometimes two or more character types get combined. They tend to be easy targets for parody and to be criticised as clichés. The presence of a particular array of stock characters is a key component of many genres, and they often help to identify a genre or subgenre. For example, a story with a knight-errant and a witch is probably a fairy tale or fantasy.</p> <p>A cliché is a phrase or opinion that is overused or betrays a lack of original thought or a very predictable or unoriginal idea, thing or person.</p>	<p>USE A VARIETY OF COGNITIVE STRATEGIES TO LEARN THE FOLLOWING STOCK CHARACTERS:</p> <p>ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR – An eccentric, scientific genius who is so focussed on his work that he has shortfalls in other areas of life (like remembering things, personal hygiene, etc.) This is the benign (harmless) version of the mad scientist.</p> <p>Professor Calculus (Tintin), Emmett Brown (Back to the Future), Julius F. Kelp/Sherman Klump</p> <p>ACTION HERO – A hero of an action story, often one who is comfortable with the face pace of events in the story. Often overlaps with chosen one and/or superhero.</p> <p>Luke Skywalker, James Bond, Batman, Indiana Jones</p> <p>CHOSEN ONE – A person destined by prophecy to save the world, frequently possessed of unusual skills or abilities.</p> <p>Anakin Skywalker, Harry Potter, Paul Atreides (Dune)</p> <p>DAMSEL IN DISTRESS - A noble, beautiful young Lady in need of rescue, traditionally from dragons. In early 1900s films, she is threatened by a robber or kidnapper.</p> <p>Princess Peach, Princess Zelda, Daphne Blake (Scooby Doo)</p> <p>DARK LADY – A dark, malicious or doomed woman. Sometimes presented as a Wicked Stepmother.</p> <p>Lady Macbeth, Miss Trunchbull (Matilda), Mrs Coulter (His Dark Materials), Miss Havisham (Great Expectations)</p> <p>DARK LORD – An evil, powerful sorcerer. The dark lord is often a wounded or damaged person, though still powerful enough to defile the land.</p> <p>Emperor Palpatine, Lord Voldemort, Thanos</p>	<p>KNIGHT ERRANT - A noble Knight on a quest for his Lady or who is seeking some Holy Grail. He expresses his courtly love for his beloved from afar.</p> <p>Sir Lancelot, Aragorn, Jack Reacher, Starlord</p> <p>MAD SCIENTIST – An insane or eccentric scientist or professor, often villainous or amoral. Not all mad scientists are evil; some intend to be benevolent (good), but unintentionally cause an accident due to their hubristic (excessively proud or self-confident) attempt to “play God” in the lab.</p> <p>Victor Frankenstein, Dr. Jekyll, Dr. Moreau</p> <p>SUPERHERO – A noble, brave being with extraordinary powers who dedicates their life to defending the general public.</p> <p>Thor, Shazam, Wonder Woman, Sonic the Hedgehog</p> <p>REDSHIRT - A minor, expendable character who is killed soon after being introduced. This refers to characters from the original <i>Star Trek</i> television series, often from the security or engineering departments of the starship, who wore the red Starfleet uniform. They are cannon fodder.</p> <p>Stormtroopers in Star Wars, Goombas in Super Mario Bros.</p> <p>SIDEKICK - A friend who accompanies the main character or hero on their quest or mission.</p> <p>Samwise Gamgee, Chewbacca, Captain Haddock, Ned (Spider-man)</p> <p>WISE OLD MAN - An elderly, learned character who provides mentoring and wisdom to the protagonist. In fantasy, he may also be a wizard.</p> <p>Gandalf, Obi Wan Kenobi, Albus Dumbledore, Merlin</p> <p>Subverting Stereotypes. It's possible to make character stereotypes acceptable in your work by subverting them. Putting in a blatant stereotype will cause your audience to make assumptions about your character. Then you can surprise everyone by proving those assumptions wrong.</p>

