

KS3 English – Year 7:	Stock Characters...
What is an archetype?	A recurring symbol or motif in literature that represents universal patterns of human nature.
What is a stereotype?	A character with generalized character traits.
What is a stock character?	A stereotypical fictional character who is instantly recognisable to the reader or audience from other stories.
What is a cliché?	A phrase or opinion that is overused or betrays a lack of original thought or a very predictable or unoriginal idea, thing or person.
What is a trope?	Something recurring across a genre or type of literature.
The 'mad scientist' of horror movies or 'once upon a time' as an introduction to fairy tales are examples of what?	Tropes.
The gruff grandpa, the snooty cheerleader and the bratty younger sibling are examples of what type of character?	Stock characters.
A story with a 'knight-errant' and a 'witch' probably belongs to which genre?	Fairy tale or fantasy.
Professor Calculus is an example of which stock character?	Absent-minded Professor.
Which stock character is: A person destined by prophecy to save the world, frequently possessed of unusual skills or abilities?	Chosen One.
What is the definition of the Damsel in Distress stock character?	A noble, beautiful young Lady in need of rescue, traditionally from dragons.
James Bond is an example of which type of stock character?	Action Hero.
Give examples of the Dark Lady stock character.	Lady Macbeth, Miss Trunchbull (Matilda), Mrs Coulter (His Dark Materials), Miss Havisham (Great Expectations)
What is the definition of the Dark Lord stock character?	An evil, powerful sorcerer. The dark lord is often a wounded or damaged person, though still powerful enough to defile the land.
Lord Voldemort is an example of which type of stock character?	Dark Lord.
Give examples of the Chosen One stock character.	Anakin Skywalker, Harry Potter and Paul Atreides.
What is the definition of the Knight Errant stock character?	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.
Aragorn and Jack Reacher are examples of which type of stock character?	Knight Errant.
Give examples of the Mad Scientist stock character.	Victor Frankenstein, Dr Jekyll and Dr Moreau.
Which stock character is: A noble, brave being with extraordinary powers who dedicates their life to defending the general public?	Superhero.
Which television series does the term Redshirt originate from?	Star Trek.
What is the definition of the Redshirt stock character?	A minor, expendable character who is killed soon after being introduced.
Which stock character is: A friend who accompanies the main character or hero on their quest or mission?	Sidekick.
Give examples of the Sidekick stock character.	Samwise Gamgee, Chewbacca, Captain Haddock, Ned (Spider-man).
Which stock character is: An elderly, learned character who provides mentoring and wisdom to the protagonist?	Wise Old Man.
Give examples of the Wise Old Man stock character.	Gandalf, Obi Wan Kenobi, Albus Dumbledore, Merlin
Give examples of the Superhero stock character.	Thor, Shazam, Wonder Woman, Sonic the Hedgehog.
Why are stock characters sometimes problematic?	They tend to be easy targets for parody and to be criticised as clichés.
Lady Macbeth and Mrs Coulter are examples of which type of stock character?	Dark Lady.
Why do some authors choose to subvert stereotypes?	They can surprise the audience by proving assumptions made about a character to be wrong.