

Warm-Up

That's Pretty Clever! Characters in *The Number Devil*



Lesson Question



Lesson Goals

Read part of Hans Magnus Enzensberger's *The Number Devil*

Identify differences

between an

and a .

Explore how a character conveys an author's

.

Understand what roles

play in a story.



Words to Know

Fill in this table as you work through the lesson. You may also use the glossary to help you.

<input type="text"/>	the state of two things being connected in some way
<input type="text"/>	the main character of a story
<input type="text"/>	the reason something is done
<input type="text"/>	the character or force that opposes the protagonist

**Clever Characters**

characters from books, movies, and TV shows are often very

and quick-thinking. They have a knack for:

- problems.
- things out.
- getting themselves out of situations.

Instruction

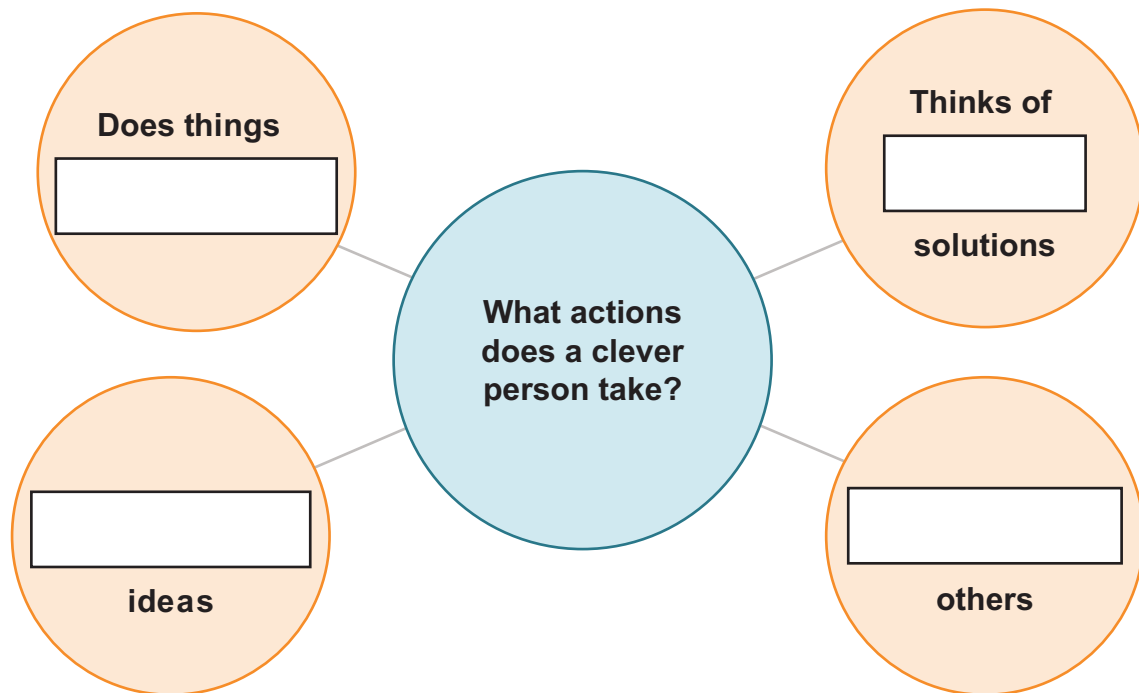
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Identity and Cleverness



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Protagonists and Antagonists

A protagonist is usually the character in a story. An antagonist is a character or force that the protagonist.

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- Peter Pan
- Dorothy
- Luke Skywalker

- Captain Hook
- The Wicked Witch of the West
- Darth Vader

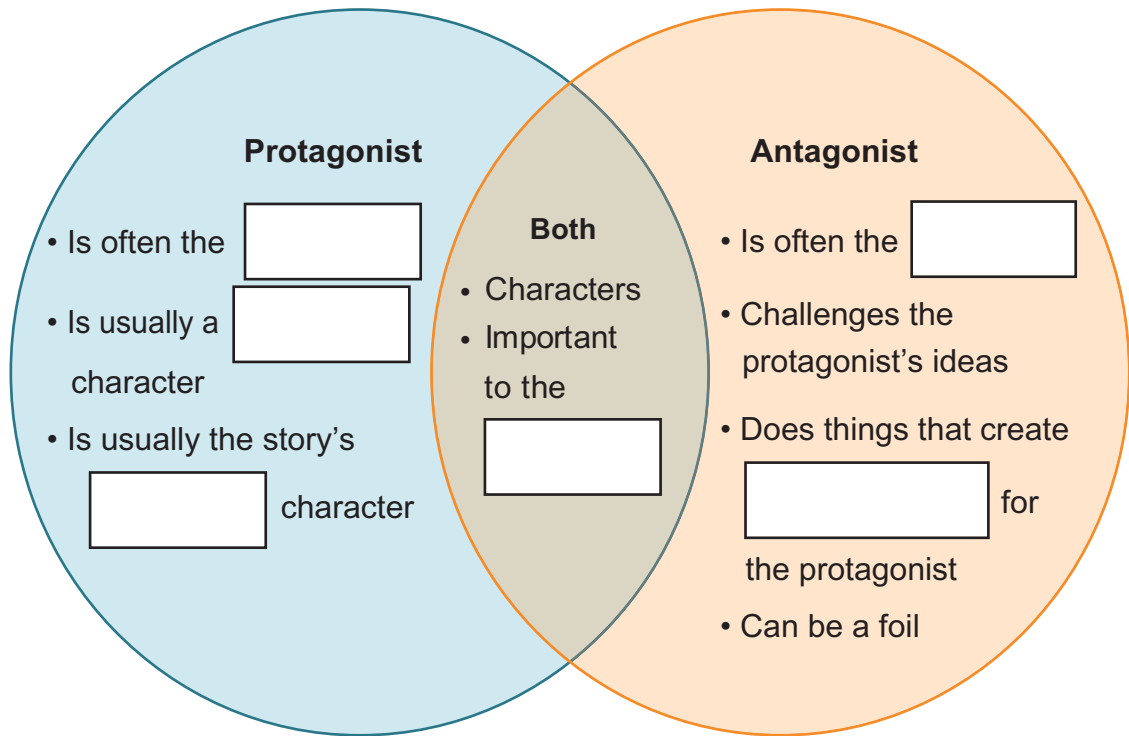
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Characteristics of Protagonists and Antagonists



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The Purposes of Characters in a Story

The characters in *Little Red Riding Hood* have a specific .

Little Red Riding Hood	The Big Bad Wolf
is the <input type="text"/> .	is the <input type="text"/> .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the main character • Does <input type="text"/> things • Is sympathetic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <input type="text"/> Little Red Riding Hood • Does <input type="text"/> things • Is unsympathetic

Instruction

Part 1

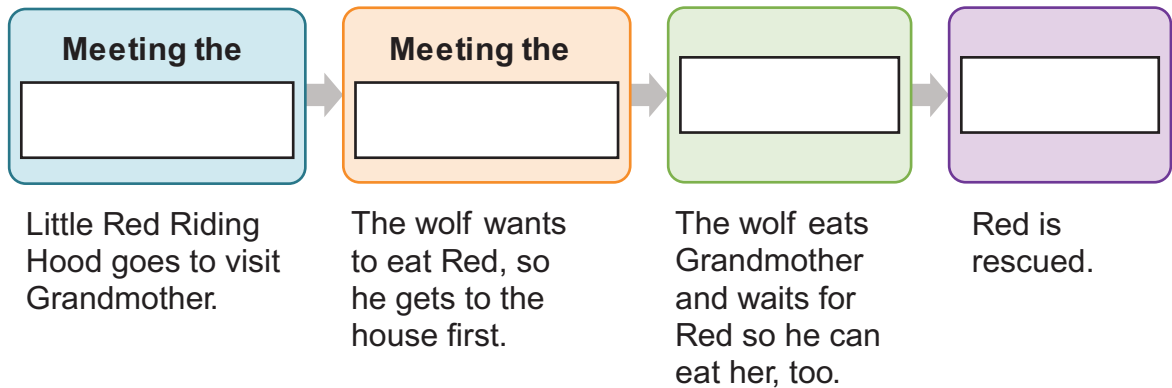
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Protagonist/Antagonist Relationship

To trace the between a protagonist and an antagonist, look at plot events.



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Identifying the Protagonist and the Antagonist

To figure out the protagonist and antagonist in a story, ask yourself:

- Whom is the story mostly about?
- Which characters seem to be ?
- Which characters seem to be ?
- What is the main ?
- Who or what is causing the problem?

Underline the protagonist and circle the antagonist in the text below.

Stanley must have looked surprised, because Mr. Sir went on to explain that they started early to avoid the hottest part of the day. “No one is going to baby-sit you,” he added. “The longer it takes you to dig, the longer you will be out in the sun. If you dig up anything interesting, you are to report it to me or any other counselor.”

–Holes, *Louis Sachar*

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Hans Magnus Enzensberger (b. 1929)

- Lives in Munich, Germany
- Is a as well as a novelist
- Has worked as an editor, essayist, dramatist, journalist, and translator
- Loves
- Has had his works translated from

Instruction

Part 2

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Author's Purpose

An author's purpose is the reason the author writes a .

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper articles • <input type="text"/> • Encyclopedias 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editorials • Advertisements • Letters to the <input type="text"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novels • Short <input type="text"/> • Plays

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Determining an Author's Purpose

To determine the author's purpose, ask:

- How does the text me?
- What is the of the text?
- What do I take away from reading?

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Connecting Characters to the Author's Purpose

The characters an author creates can reveal the author's purpose for writing.

- What do the say?
- What do the characters take?
- What does that indicate about the author's ?

"Guessing? Guessing is not allowed in mathematics! Mathematics is an exact science!"

"But when you said that numbers don't stop, that they go on till the cows come home, that was a guess, wasn't it?"

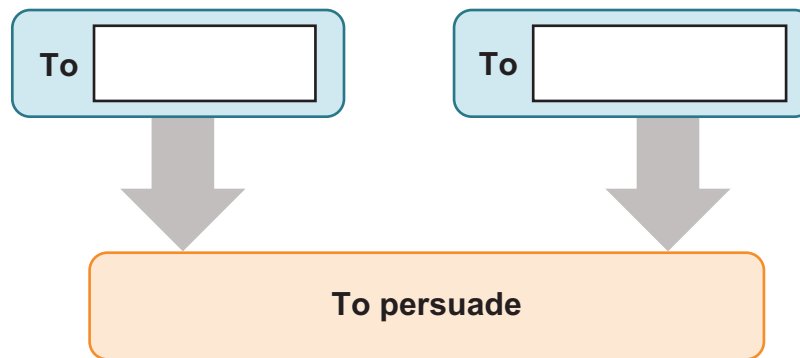
"How dare you? What are you, anyway? A beginner! A rank amateur! And you want to teach me my trade?"

–*The Number Devil*,
Hans Magnus Enzensberger

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Thinking about the Author's Purpose

What is the author's purpose in *The Number Devil*?



- The story readers about mathematical concepts and how they work.
- The story readers by showing how the protagonist, Robert, the number devil and, in doing so, learns more about math.

Summary

That's Pretty Clever! Characters in *The Number Devil*



Lesson Question

How can a clever character help an author get a point across?



Answer

Use this space to write any questions or thoughts about this lesson.