Character: Dynamic vs. Static

The key word when dealing with the difference between static and dynamic characters is **internal** "change."

- a major change in his/her personality
- a change in his/her values or outlook on life
- an overall change in the nature of the character

**Dynamic Characters** –

- change or grow as a result of the story’s actions
- learn something about themselves, other people, or the world as they struggle to resolve their conflicts
- The changes that a dynamic character undergoes contribute to the **meaning** of the story.
- Much like dynamite will cause something to change by an explosion

Example: Ebenezer Scrooge, in *A Christmas Carol* by Dickens, was very stingy with his money. He worked his employees very hard for little pay. After his experiences with the ghosts that visited him, he changed his ways, paying his employees a more than fair wage, providing days off work and actually giving gifts.

*In this example Ebenezer Scrooge is a dynamic character.*

**Static Characters**–

- do not change or grow (do not undergo any internal changes)
- are the same at the end of a story as they were in the beginning
- Much like static on a T.V. set will stay the same

Example: Fred, in *A Christmas Carol*, was warm and welcoming to Scrooge when he was a stingy, grouchy old man and continues to care about him even when he treats him poorly. When Scrooge has a change of heart, he decides to join Fred and his wife for Christmas dinner. Fred opens his home to his uncle and joyfully welcomes him.

*In this example Fred is a static character.*