

Who Am I?

Am I a caged being? Am I the result of another's whim and fancy? Who am I? Who am I? This apparently represents the voice of a character.

It has been said that characters are the **creations** of a playwright that are intended to reveal the myriad of life experiences that confront us daily. Specific stage directions are used by the playwright to aptly define how characters in the production ought to be interpreted. The appearance of characters, the clothes and they wear and how they appear physically, can tell us about them.

The audience generally learns about characters by what:

- they say or do not say;
- they do or do not do; and
- others say or think about and treat them.

Literature is about people and the things that happen to them. As such, characters are used to help the reader/audience to understand the dynamic involved in how people react when they are placed in given situations. Some critics refer to this process as understanding the character's reasoning or motivation and attempt to examine how characters grow or stagnate.

In most literary works characters can be grouped as:

- Flat;
- Round;
- Stereotype; or
- Stock.

The main character in a literary work is considered as the **protagonist** or hero/heroine. The **antagonist**, on the other hand, is the character with whom the main character may be in conflict. In the early European dramatic era, characters were named dependent on their roles/personalities. It has been documented that morality plays were hinged on characters who personified vices and virtues. This tradition of naming continues to influence today's practices.

The soulful reggae interpretation and dramatic presentation by Duane Stephenson's "Better Tomorrow" provide a snapshot into characterisation, and its effectiveness to literary works.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkJx-5Po1Qo&feature=emb_logo

What can be said about the colour scheme of this video as it related to the characters' struggles?

What were the dominant themes, were they realistic?

What symbolic messages were conveyed to highlight the characters?

Do you think that the literary devices were effectively used to show character growth?

On what note did this soulful journey end for the characters?