

Flat and round characters

Terms used by E. M. Foster in *Aspects of the Novel* (1927) to describe two basically different types of character – and characterisation. A ‘flat’ character does not change in the course of a story or play; a ‘round’ one develops and thus alters. [...] Shakespeare’s *Henry IV* (Parts I and II) provides a suitable contrast in the shape of Hotspur and Prince Hal. The former is a ‘flat’ character; the Prince changes and develops considerably in the course of the play.

Cuddon, J. A. *Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory*. 3rd ed. London: Penguin, 1991, p. 344.