Name _____   Period _____

Standards Focus: Character Types
Chapter Five

As authors develop the plot and characters for a story, several character *types* emerge:
- ✓ The **protagonist** of a story is the main character that changes throughout the story; the protagonist is directly affected by the events of the plot.
- ✓ The **antagonist** is the main character in opposition of the protagonist; the antagonist usually causes the protagonist's problems. The antagonist can also be a force of nature.

To further define his characters, an author then develops four general types of characters which evolve around the protagonist and antagonist and support the plot development.
- **Round** characters are complicated and interesting to the reader.
- **Flat** characters are simple and under-developed.
- **Dynamic** characters are those that grow or change emotionally or learn a lesson.
- **Static** characters change or grow very little (or not at all) throughout the story.

To help understand these character types, we must study the way that the author has written about each character. There are several ways we learn about a character:
- **Direct characterization** is when the author or narrator tells the reader what a character is like. For example, "Jennifer is a good student."
- **Indirect characterization** is when the author gives information about a character and allows the reader to draw his or her own conclusions about that character. Two of the ways we can learn about a character through **indirect characterization** are:
  - ○ The character's own thoughts, feelings and actions
  - ○ What other characters say, feel or act towards another character

Directions: For each of the characters below, complete the chart with <u>direct quotes</u> of both direct and indirect characterization from Chapters 1-5 of the novel. Then, for the last two rows, decide how the character should be classified: protagonist, antagonist, or other, <u>and</u> round, flat, dynamic or static. An example has been done for you.

Character	George	Lennie
Direct Characterization	"The first man was small and quick, dark of face, with restless eyes and sharp, strong features."	
Indirect Characterization	The boss says about George: "Well, I never seen one guy take so much trouble for another guy."	
Protagonist, Antagonist, or Other	Protagonist	
Round or Flat, Dynamic or Static	Round, Dynamic	

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Character	Candy	Curley
Direct Characterization		
Indirect Characterization		
Protagonist, Antagonist, or Other		
Round or Flat, Dynamic or Static		
Character	Curley's Wife	Slim
Direct Characterization		
Indirect Characterization		
Protagonist, Antagonist, or Other		
Round or Flat, Dynamic or Static		
Character	Carlson	Crooks
Direct Characterization		
Indirect Characterization		
Protagonist, Antagonist, or Other		
Round or Flat, Dynamic or Static		