

Session 7: Central questions for ANY story (not experimental)

What does the character WANT?

(What does Akaky want in "The Overcoat"?)

What motivates?

(it is cold and his coat is dead)

At what point in the story is this clear?

(early on)

How is the information made clear?

(descriptions of his old "coat," tailor tells him – dialog – an internal depart)

What stands in the way?

(poverty...a thief)

What does that desire set in motion?

(Akaky becomes more social – *then* at the end Akaky goes mad and dies)

* **WANT** must be stated as **a positive**, not a negative.

(Can't say that Connie wants Arnold *to stop* – that's a negative)

She wants to protect her family (and herself)

Thinking about these questions, we can see where plot is generated.

Conflict is that the character **wants** something and tries to get it but something stands in the way.

Think of these question as you read the stories for next week (and for the rest of the semester – and forever).

"The sort of person who..."

- finding a single trait or detail that sums up the character
- what they want
- they're the sort of person who...

Names – naming characters

Exercise: Smell

First describe the smell. After we get through the character sketch, think about how the character would react to this smell experience.