



Multiple Lenses of a Character

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Introduction

This creative research came to be as Avatar: The Last Airbender has become prominent with it being added to Netflix. I focus on Prince Zuko, a multidimensional character, and explore the different character types. The hope with this research is to distinguish the character type Zuko falls in.



Results & Conclusion

With this knowledge, I concluded that Zuko can be categorized differently depending on what lenses one is looking through.



References

- <https://blog.reedsy.com/protagonist-and-antagonist/>
- <https://blog.reedsy.com/anti-hero/>
- <https://blog.reedsy.com/anti-villain/>

Methodology – The four traditional character types used in literary criticism were utilized to magnify Zuko’s actions and determine his role in the series.

Protagonist

- Main character
- Hero
- Can be evil!
- Examples: Harry Potter and The Grinch

Antagonist

- Opposes the main character
- Villain
- Can be good!
- Examples: Darth Vader and Javert from Le Misérables

Anti-Hero

- A protagonist
- Lacks conventional attributes of a traditional hero such as courage, morality, etc.
- Sometimes noble
- Don’t always act for the right reasons
- Readers/Viewers root for this character
- Examples: Damon Salvatore from TVD, Walter White from Breaking Bad, Michael Scott from The Office, etc.

Anti-Villain

- An antagonist
- Have noble characteristics, values, and goals
- How they strive to achieve their goals is often questionable
- Backstories that give insight into their motives
- Readers/Viewers has sympathy for this character but still wants them to be defeated
- Examples: Thanos from MCU, Erik Killmonger from Black Panther, Magneto from X-Men, etc.



Acknowledgments

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Further information

The QR code above directs the audience to a YouTube video (~3 minutes) about Zuko’s life. If you are having trouble with the QR code, the link for the video is <https://youtu.be/4Cb6isIGqBw>.