CREDIBILITY OF CHARACTERS AND MOTIFS

Unit 4 Lesson 3

EVALUATING THE CREDIBILITY OF CHARACTERS

- **Definition of Character Credibility:**
- Character credibility refers to the believability and consistency of a character's actions, motivations, and personality traits within a narrative.
- **Criteria for Evaluating Credibility:**
- **Consistency:** Assess whether the character's behavior and decisions remain true to their established traits throughout the story.
- **Motivations:** Analyze whether the character's actions are adequately explained by their beliefs, desires, and circumstances.
- **Development:** Evaluate whether the character undergoes realistic growth or change based on their experiences.
- **Example:**
- In Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird," Atticus Finch is consistently portrayed as a principled and compassionate lawyer whose actions align with his values of justice and fairness.

UNDERSTANDING AND ANALYZING MOTIF

- **Definition of Motif:**
- A motif is a significant phrase, description, or image that is repeated throughout a literary work and contributes to its thematic development.
- **Characteristics of Motif:**
- **Repetition:** Identifying recurring elements that contribute to the motif's prominence and impact.
- **Connection to Theme:** Analyzing how the motif reinforces or reflects the central themes of the narrative.
- **Symbolism:** Interpreting the deeper meaning or symbolism associated with the motif's repetition.
- **Example:**
- In F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby," the motif of the green light symbolizes Gatsby's hopes and dreams, as well as the elusive nature of the American Dream.

WRITING MOTIFS

- **Creating Motifs in Writing:**
- **Identify Themes:** Choose key themes or ideas that you want to explore throughout your writing.
- **Select Motif Elements:** Decide on specific phrases, images, or symbols that will be repeated to highlight these themes.
- **Integrate Seamlessly:** Weave the motif into the narrative, ensuring it enhances the story's depth and resonance.
- **Develop Symbolism:** Develop the symbolic meaning of the motif to add layers of interpretation for readers.
- **Example:**
- In J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings," the motif of the One Ring symbolizes power and corruption, influencing characters and events throughout the epic tale.