

3 - Dimensional Characters

An individual's personality is developed through their experiences. Some traits can manifest in much more complicated ways, which can help make you the person you are. Humans have 4-dimensional personalities because humans are constantly growing. A 3-dimensional personality is when the reasons behind a fictional character's behavior are progressively developed throughout their media. They have a multitude of traits and imperfections as a character. What makes them "2-dimensional" is the fact that they cannot continue to grow beyond their media. In cartoons, script writers and storyboard artists try to replicate human characteristics to enhance their show and the viewers' experiences. This takes much thought and planning to make everything come together cohesively. A character's personality in a specific television show is dictated by their speech and the intentions behind their actions. Often the 3-dimensional character approach is omitted for

comedic and/or educational purposes.

But there are some shows that have managed to incorporate 3-Dimensional characters.

For Example:

- Gravity Falls
- Avatar: The Last Airbender
- Adventure Time
- Steven Universe



A common factor of these cartoons is an ultimate goal that the characters want to achieve over an elongated period of time. Because of this, characters have time to develop their "personality" with the viewers. When this element is omitted for the show to focus on other themes, characters will often have a "2-dimensional personality" which means they're predictable and are made to perfectly fit their story.

This is used in:

- SpongeBob Squarepants
- The Backyardigans
- The Simpsons

These shows often do not have an ultimate goal that the characters want to achieve and don't have an ending. However, they keep viewers coming back with their slapstick humour and/or their educational value. For those who have watched Spongebob Squarepants and Gravity Falls you may have seen the similarities between Mr. Krabs and Stan Pines: they are both obsessed with money and own a business where the main characters work. Though, at first, they seem like the same type of character in different shows, Stan Pines and Mr. Krabs are extremely different. Mr. Krabs is greedy for no apparent reason and the show never goes into depth why he is the way he is. This makes him a 2-dimentional character; his actions have no reason behind them. In contrast, Stan Pines starts out as a self-centered uncle, but as the show develops viewers discover why he became so obsessed with money and the reasons behind his narcissistic actions. Thus, Stan Pines is a 3-dimensional character. The