

LITERARY ELEMENT: FOIL

CONTRASTING CHARACTERS

Foils

- A foil is a character whose qualities or actions emphasize those of the protagonist (or other characters in the story) by providing a strong contrast to them .
- By looking at the similarities and differences between two characters, the audience can get a better understanding of the major character.



So, for example:



If you were telling a story about a really stingy person, you might want to add a minor character who is very generous. That could make the first guy seem even stingier.



FOIL

A character who is compared and contrasted with the protagonist

Harry Potter and Lord Voldemort

Harry Potter believes in honor, truth, and justice. Voldemort is a staunch evildoer and considers Harry's values foolish.



How are these characters
foils?

How do they contrast?

