Characterization

1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10
Characters seem wooden—seen only on the surface. The writer has something he or she wants to say and is using the novel to say it—but the characters used are secondary. I don't identify or care about the main character(s).	There is a little more concern taken with the plot and characters, but the author still treats them rather like chess pawns. In other words, they tend to be stereotypes more than real people. E.g. good people are very good, bad ones are very bad.	Some of the characters – esp. the main character(s) - seem like real people, but the reader may not care that much about them. Their motives may not be clearly defined, or the may be some inconsistencies. Another problem could be that the characters be defined but not very real. Could be a lot of telling about them but not enough showing them. There may also be too much information that is not really relevant to the plot.	The main character(s) generally seem like real people—you remember them. They are complex, with layers of emotion, motives, etc. Their actions come out of their past & personalities. Good balance— real people and a solid plot, and the two are intermingled so they are not readily separated. May be a few characters who aren't quite as well-developed as the others or some inconsistencies or gaps.	All the characters are real people, and the reader cares deeply about most of them, even those he or she may not like. You can anticipate their reactions. No stereotypes—the author sees both good and bad points in everyone. There isn't necessarily a happy ending—but each character is treated with loving care. The reader identifies with the main character(s) and feels emotion (relief, anger, joy, sadness…) depending on what happens to them.