

91249 Character – Breaking Bad –

In the first season of Breaking Bad, Walter White transforms from a protagonist at the start of the season, to an antagonist by episode 7 of the first season. [1] This can be seen as at the start of the show in episode 1, he was a gentle, kind, husband, teacher and father. The equilibrium in this episode suddenly changes as Walter finds out that he has a rare form of lung cancer, which then sets him thinking for ways to provide for his family up to, and after his death. He then unite with an old college dropout of his, “Jesse Pinkman”, to manufacture and distribute a high quality variant of methamphetamine, in order to make money for his family, and even pay for his medical. He turns down his friends, Elliot and Gretchen’s money in episode 4, [2] after feeling shame in the fact that the money would be coming from his true love, and her husband, he however has found a new sense of control from his anew activities, he believes he doesn’t need his money, if he did accept the money he would have had his medical covered and money for the family, without becoming a dangerous person, but he had already been corrupted with greed and power.

In episode 6 of the first season you can see Walter make the transition from a protagonist to an anti-hero as the episode starts off with him not wanting to know about the distribution of the drugs he produces. Later in the episode he discovers that Tuco, the new dealer in town, had beaten up his partner, Jesse. This causes Walter to snap, and you can tell that Walter is a different man, as he turns up to Tuco’s place to threaten Tuco into collecting pre-orders and the money from the drugs he stole from Jesse. [2] He then blows up the room with crystallised mercury fulminate, this shows Walter’s true colours as he becomes a hardened criminal [3].

This is an important development in the series as it defines Walter as a character and how he will take on the series and how he has developed ulterior motives to when the series’ first started [4] and how he must act to provide for his family.