In the short story ‘The red door’ by Ian Crichton Smith. The characterisation of Murdo shows the theme of characters who change over time. During this story Murdo struggles to fit in to society and has an inner conflict with himself between individuality and conformity. The character feels trapped by his overbearing urge to conform. At the climax of the story Murdo reaches an epiphany and comes to the realisation, due to the vandalism from a mysterious neighbour who paints his door red, he has lost his own individuality. “There must be somewhere for me as myself. I wish to be red” this suggests Murdo craves his own sense of self identification, he desires to be bold and beam with confidence like the bright red door which stands out against his village full of green doors and identical houses. He is breaking away from the tight restrictions of the man he used to be.

In the short story ‘The Telegram’ by Iain Crichton Smith. Set during the First World War. The fat woman displays the theme of characters who change over time. This short story is about two neighbours, both women, whose sons are both in the navy. The women live completely opposite lives; in that, the fat woman is wealthy and greedy and the thin woman is poor and malnourished, because of this the fat woman looks down on her neighbour, falsely thinking that the thin woman is just too lazy to make an income. The thin woman lives her poor life starving herself at the cost of putting her son through university and the ranks of the navy. However, due to a telegram being delivered by an elder the fat woman feels sudden sympathy for the thin woman. “It was as if she had an extra vision” this suggests she seen the thin woman in a new light, she realised that her years of misjudgement were unfair, unkind and unnecessary. All because the telegram was heading for her home.

In the short story ‘Home’ by Ian Crichton Smith. The Scottish man and his wife show how home isn’t always the place you were born. Due to a change in their characterisation after his return to Glasgow from his African paradise. “The black polished car” this shows that the man and his wife are wealthy as only rich people get their car polished, it also shows that it’s a very expensive good car and they value it very much. “She smiled disdainfully” this shows that his wife isn’t happy to be back in her home place Glasgow suggesting she prefers African highlife better. “Be back in Africa where we belong” this suggests they identify themselves as being African and could be embarrassed of their Scottish heritage showing that them as a couple have changed. “Be back in Africa” they see themselves as being African now, even though they were born in Glasgow, their character has changed because they are massive snobs and think they are better than everyone else because they travelled, they look down on everyone from Glasgow when they used to be just the same as them, hypocrites, they have changed because they were just like every normal person from Glasgow but they see themselves as being African because they belong there now.

In the short story ‘Mother and son’ by Ian Crichton Smith. It seems as though John, the son, is going to change from being trapped inside his home with his mother to leave his home and live his life the way he wants instead of listening to his mother all the time. His mother always finds a way to try to keep him to stay in the house to look after her, she makes her son feel sympathy and as though he needs to take care of her. “Do you *want* me to take a job I’ll take a job tomorrow if you’ll only say?” John says sarcastically because he knows she will never let him escape this house, he will always be a prisoner to her doing everything she tells him to do, it seems as though he needs his mother’s permission to go out and find a job because if he just leaves he feels as though he’s betraying her and leaving her to fend for herself.