

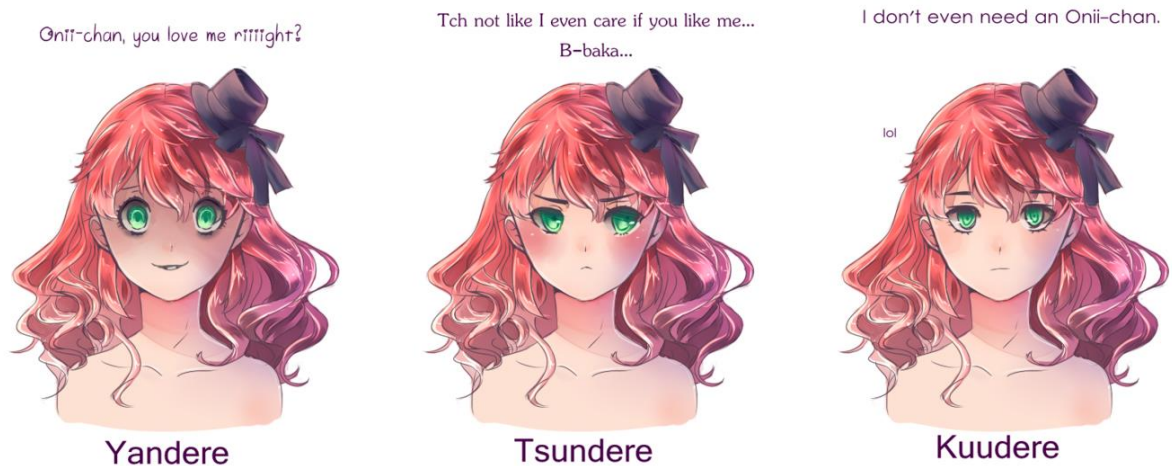


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Like the tsundere? You'll probably like the kuudere too. Let's take a look. *"You don't have to read this. I don't care. Really...I don't. (sigh)"*

Kuudere Etymology: "Harsh words may hold a soft core." (A saying about the Kuudere...by the Anime Historian)

Kuudere, unlike the yandere and tsundere, is not defined by online Japanese dictionaries as a legitimate Japanese word. Meaning, kuudere is still a rising term in Japanese slang. The term comes from a portmanteau of クール(English word for "cool") and でれでれ("deredere" meaning lovestruck), クーでれ(kuudere). Tvtropes.org also stated the "sugar and ice personality" is another term for kuudere.¹²



<http://luumies.deviantart.com/art/Yandere-Tsundere-and-Kuudere-386397646>

Kuudere History: "People tell me they don't know enough about my past...whatever. It's not my problem." (A kuudere saying...by the Anime Historian)

Kuudere as a term is an offshoot of the more influential "tsundere" classification. Kuudere is a more recent fan-speak term for classifying a "cool on the outside but soft

¹ <http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/Kuudere>

² <http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/SugarAndIcePersonality>

on the inside” kind of character. The history of this character is very hard to pin down but it seems that anime in the 90’s was where this character became more well known. Being shown in anime with Android 18 from DBZ, or Sailor Neptune from Sailor Moon. The earlier example I could find of this character type in anime, or manga, was Karl Heinz Schneider. This character was introduced in episode 98 of the Captain Tsubasa Anime that ran from 1983-1986.³ If you guys have an example of an earlier character that fits this archetype please let me know in the comments below so I can change this history section if needed.



Karl Heinz Schneider

Kuudere Types: “Being defined by someone else is not my thing...” (Cool Guy kuudere saying...by the Anime Historian)

The kuudere archetype can be broken down into three separate types. These types are not exclusive as one character may adopt different types at different times. Also, these types are not gender specific as both male and female can be put into these categories. TVtropes.org classifies these three distinct types.⁴

Type 1 — Always In Control: Comes off as "kuu-" (cool) because of emotional control, maintaining a calm, collected exterior. Expressions are subtle, with watery eyes being akin to bawling, and a small smile being akin to a giggle fit. Feelings may be filtered

³ [http://captaintsubasa.wikia.com/wiki/Captain_Tsubasa_\(1983_TV_series\)](http://captaintsubasa.wikia.com/wiki/Captain_Tsubasa_(1983_TV_series))

⁴ <http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/Kuudere>

through sarcastic or dry wit. The appeal is their bluntness and directness, in contrast to shy reserve. Think Raven from Teen Titans.

Type 2 — Once You Get To Know Them: They will show the 'dere' side, but strangers and the untrusted will see the 'kuu' side. Friends all consider them to be caring and in private moments with them you may just catch them laughing. Although it will still be considered unusual. It's not that they spare friends any of the sarcastic wit or that they don't act 'kuu' with them sometimes. Their friends just understand it better than those that aren't close.

Type 3 — Mood-Swinger: Alternating between 'kuu-' and 'dere' persona depending on their mood. What controls the mood? Some may have clearly defined hot buttons. Others might switch moods at what seems to be random moments, which can be very unnerving or confusing to those nearby. Some might contend that this version isn't 'kuu-' (cool) enough to qualify as a kuudere, and might place them in some other category. But for the sake of this breakdown of the kuudere, we will keep it in.



Beastboy and Raven from Teen Titans

*Kuudere Strategies: "This strategy is full of holes. You're just going to rush in and win, right?"
(Sarcastic kuudere comment...by the Anime Historian)*

The kuudere in being fit into any of the three types of kuudere will use specific attitudes and comments to fit her personality. These we will call the kuudere strategies. Allthetropes.com has classified these four distinct strategies.⁵

The Silent Treatment:

Sometimes this can be used as a blunt and open form of punishment. "I'm not speaking to you anymore." More commonly it's as simple as the recognition that silence is a conversational weapon. Responding to some foolishness with dead silence, perhaps with a slightly raised eyebrow, can be far more effective a putdown than some harsh insult. Occasionally, this will be combined with tactic 2.

Non-Verbal Cues:

There are many ways to communicate disgust without words. These range from a haughty look, to sniffing at "boorish" behavior, to sighs about whatever new idiocy she's been called upon to endure. If confronted about it she'll probably reply: "I didn't say anything." (Unless she's giving you the Silent Treatment too- then you're likely to only get a stare.) Note that this can just as often convey approval, especially toward friends that have learned to "read" her.

Cynicism:

Casually blunt and dismissive, but rarely rude even when provoked. However, a conversation with her will always leave you with a faint feeling of being mocked. Witty comments that show how intelligent she is and how foolish you are, she loves those.

Stoicism:

She does not choose emotional ways of expression, therefore coming across as emotionless, unfeeling, and overly logical. She might not seek out cutting comments, but she ignores the emotions of her companions, and tends to dismiss them as unimportant.

The Appeal of the Kuudere: "What do I care if you like me or not?" (Typical Kuudere saying...by the Anime Historian

The kuudere, unlike tsundere and yandere, is a much less studied archetype due to its limited popularity. There can be interpretations as to why this character archetype is loved so much over so many different media. Although, there can be a lot of interpretations as to why, these are my mine:

A Realistic Look Into Those We See As Better:

⁵ <http://allthetropes.wikia.com/wiki/Kuudere>

Kuudere can be used in a way that exposes the difficulties of being cool on the outside while wanting to express themselves. In this way, some characters who are popular will envy the main character because of their ability to express themselves. The intent of writing a character who is seen as “cool but actually wants to be you” can fulfill certain needs of the reader or watcher. If you are not popular at school and you always see someone else who is, this kind of character in the anime/manga might help rationalize how your position might actually be better than the popular kids.

The Stoic and the Comic:

One interpretation of why kuudere characters are used can be seen as a balancing act between comedy and realism. An interesting interaction between serious and funny. The contrasting personality types highlight seemingly polarized personalities but I think that’s what brings out the best in both. The use of two characters with such different personalities allows for characters to not be defined by a plain type but allow for exploration of all of the inner workings of each character. The comic relief getting a laugh out of the kuudere is satisfying. This is best illustrated in the relationship between Raven and Beastboy from Teen Titans but also seen in Bleach with interactions between Nel’s friends and Uryuu when he was in Hueco Mundo.



Uryuu Ishida in Las Noches

The Mysterious Character:

This interpretation comes more from a perspective of girl's manga in their fantasy version of interactions with men. The kuudere in anime/manga that is serious and mysterious is building block that is used to tell a stereotypical love story:

"The man has a good heart but has not met the perfect girl yet. You, a typical girl, catch his eye and are able to unravel the mystery. He takes you on long trips and begins to open up. Eventually, you, the typical girl, are able to help him come to terms with his past and, in doing so, find true love."

Not to be too critical but you can see what I mean with my stereotypical story above. The character highlights the fascination with being pulled away from the norm into a world of interest and fantasy. The love lives of you or me, usually, do not involve extensive trips or the ability to heal the transgressions of the past in your lover. These fantasy lovers are your ticket to the perfect soulmate because only you can fix them. This is exacting why "Twilight" got so popular people. Think about it.

Ways in which Kuudere can be used: "You think you can use me? Try it." (Kuudere Taunt...by the Anime Historian)

The typical kuudere can be used in the same environment in multiple different ways. From TvTropes.org, Here's a small example of how a typical kuudere archetype can be used:⁶

Basic Trope: A (usually) emotionless girl likes a guy, but for one reason or another, hides her feelings under a cold exterior.

Straight: Keiko is rather quiet and cold. Her schoolwork is more important to her than love, but then she notices Sam...

Exaggerated: Keiko is emotionally distant with everyone, including her family, friends, and puppy. However, at first sight of Sam, turns into a gooey mess of affection.

Justified:

Keiko transferred to a new school and feels like she's surrounded by idiots. Sam is sarcastic relief and helps her feel less lonely.

Keiko has been burned badly by someone she trusted and is slow to trust. Sam manages to gain her trust, and she warms up to him as a result.

Keiko has asperger's syndrome. She has natural difficulty expressing emotions but that doesn't stop her from loving those close to her.

Inverted:

⁶ <http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/PlayingWith/Kuudere>

Sam is a jerk with a heart of gold, and causes the usually cheerful Keiko to give him the cold shoulder.

Keiko is normally a loving person until she notices Sam and suddenly becomes emotionless when he's around her.

Subverted: Sam seems to be making Keiko warm up a little bit, but she's still aloof, and a relationship never happens.

Parodied: Sam turns Keiko into a clingy jealous girl over the weekend.

Zig Zagged: Keiko doesn't like Sam. Later, however, she seems to develop feelings for him, but then it turns out that she was just using him for her own ends. And then it turns out that even though it looks like that was what happened, she really did like him. And then it turns out that he was trying to manipulate her. And then it turns out that neither of them have actual feelings for each other. Until suddenly they do.

Averted: Keiko intimidates Sam and he never approaches her. She never notices.

Enforced: The writers want to give Keiko a Love Interest, but she reacts to them this way.

Lampshaded: "That girl doesn't seem to like anyone, does she?" "Well, I think she likes Sam. You see that sort of thing all the time in movies."

Invoked: Sam notices that, while Keiko is cold, he could try to warm her up to the idea of a Love Interest, and decides to go about winning her that way.

Exploited: Sam just got out of a relationship with a crazy dream girl, finding her to be way too chaotic and crazy. Keiko seems like a good way to start over with someone less likely to drag him on some insane adventure.

Defied: Keiko, meanwhile notices Sam's efforts and decides to ignore him.

Discussed: "Unlike what you see in movies, Sam, I am not interested. Please stop hugging me."

Conversed: "Oh, I see what's happening here. She's going to act all cold like she's not interested, but she is, and they live Happily Ever After."

Deconstructed:

Keiko has had trouble with getting close to people her whole life. Even if Sam gets on her nerves sometimes, she feels more comfortable with him than anyone else.

Reconstructed: Keiko has something of a misanthropic streak. Sam helps her realize that not all humans are bastards.

Played For Laughs: Keiko is The Comically Serious in Sam's zany schemes.

Played For Drama: Keiko was going through depression, but Sam helps her realize she has much to live for and people who love her.

As you can see with the multiple different interpretations that can be given based on one environment, the kuudere can be employed in anime and manga in a large variety of fashions. Personally, I love the Zig-Zagged version.

You read through the article huh? Great. (sigh) Time to move on with our lives. (A typical kuudere way to end an article on kuudere's...by the Anime Historian)

Thanks for reading through my article on the kuudere. It was an interesting experience looking up and interpreting all the info on them...which was not much lol. I used Tvtropes.org and Allthetropes.wikia.com as a main source. If my info looks identical to what's on there, do not be surprised. If you need more content, I would love for you to look me up on Youtube at "[Anime History](#)." Thanks again for reading :)