

**Character traits** describe a character's personality or qualities.

**Examples:** *caring, arrogant, stubborn, pushy, neat, possessive, lazy, etc.*

**Not character traits:** (physical descriptions) – *tall, old, young, wearing a red sweater, having brown hair, etc.*

**Characterization** is the **method** authors use to *develop* a character's traits.

### Jan's character trait - *caring*

Method of Characterization	Story Quote
<b>Character's words</b>	Jan sat down across the table from the girl and <b>said</b> , " <u>Hello, I really like your necklace. My name's Jan. What's yours?</u> "
<b>Character's actions</b>	Jan's <u>smile</u> made the new girl feel comfortable. Jan reached over and <u>shook her hand</u> .
<b>Character's thoughts</b>	Jan noticed the new girl across the room sitting by herself. <u>Jan <b>knew</b> how lonely the girl must be and decided right then to be her friend.</u>
<b>Narrator's description</b>	Ever since Jan was in first grade, she always <u>wanted to help others</u> .
<b>Other characters' thoughts, words, and actions</b>	Later that night, <u>Mary told her family</u> about Jan's warm welcome to Meredith Junior High.

### Not an example of character traits:

Jan wore a colorful dress and boots.

Jan had blue eyes and wore a gold necklace.

### CFU

Which of the following examples describes a character that is rude? Explain your answer.

**A** Jess refused to shake hands with the other team. *We should have won that game, he thought. We are so much better.*

**B** Jess' team had lost. He stood there in his dirty uniform as the other team left.

Why is **Marcus wore red shoes and a white shirt** not an example of a character trait?

In your own words, what is characterization?

1. Read the question and identify which character you are analyzing. (box)
2. Read the text and identify words that develop character traits. (underline).
3. Classify the method of characterization. (write sentence number)
4. Analyze characterization. (write character trait)

<sup>1</sup>"I don't care what you say," Allie argued. <sup>2</sup>"I'm not going to that boring camp this summer!" <sup>3</sup>Allie cried and yelled. <sup>4</sup>She stamped her foot and threw her sweatshirt on the ground. <sup>5</sup>*None of my friends are going to be there, she thought, and it won't be any fun at all.* <sup>6</sup>*I refuse to go through that again,* she thought. <sup>7</sup>Summers at camp are hot and muggy with lots of mosquitoes.

Methods of Characterization	Sentence Number
Character's words	
Character's actions	
Character's thoughts	

1. What character trait(s) did the author develop for Allie? \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>1</sup>Danny was a little boy who needed a lot of attention. <sup>2</sup>His mother constantly had to watch him and listen to his screams. <sup>3</sup>Lunch time was a battle every day. <sup>4</sup>She had to notice when he pushed his plate to the edge of the table. <sup>5</sup>She would try to grab it. <sup>6</sup>Usually she was too late and ended up picking the plate off the floor and yelling at Danny.

Methods of Characterization	Sentence Number
Narrator's description	
Other characters' thoughts, words, and actions	

1. What characters trait(s) did the author develop for Danny? \_\_\_\_\_

## Skill Closure

1. Read the question and identify which character you are analyzing. (box)
2. Read the text and identify words that develop character traits. (underline).
3. Classify the method of characterization. (write sentence number)
4. Analyze characterization. (write character trait)

<sup>1</sup>I stood tall and walked boldly to the podium. <sup>2</sup>I knew no one was as good a speller as I was. <sup>3</sup>I noticed my parents in the audience. <sup>4</sup>Dad was applauding and Mom was waving at me. <sup>5</sup>Quietly I said to myself, "Whatever this word is, I'll spell it correctly!"

Methods of Characterization	Sentence Number
Character's thoughts	
Character's words	
Character's actions	

1. What character trait(s) did the author develop for the narrator?

---



---

<sup>1</sup>The room was quiet as the word was spelled. <sup>2</sup>Then, people started clapping and shouting the speaker's name. <sup>3</sup>After, they came to shake his hand and tell him congratulations. <sup>4</sup>He looked pleased.

Methods of Characterization	Sentence Number
Narrator's description	
Other character's words, thoughts, and actions	

1. What character trait(s) did the author develop for the narrator?

---



---

## Concept Closure

Why is this sentence **not** an example of characterization?

*Max lost his wrestling match.*

---



---

## Summary Closure

What did you learn today about analyzing characterization?

---



---



---

## Word Bank

character traits  
 personality  
 method  
 thoughts  
 words  
 actions  
 not physical traits

**Read the question and box the character to analyze. Read the passage and underline words that develop character traits. Classify the method with sentence numbers. Write the character trait.**

<sup>1</sup>Jose saw his teacher, Mrs. Garcia, heading for the classroom. <sup>2</sup>As she got to the door, she dropped the binder she was holding. <sup>3</sup>It opened and papers flew out. <sup>4</sup>Mrs. Garcia bent down and picked up her things. <sup>5</sup>Jose hurried to help. <sup>6</sup>"Mrs. Garcia, you forgot this," he said as he handed her a paper. <sup>7</sup>"I'll get the door for you, too," he volunteered. <sup>8</sup>"Thank you, Jose." said Mrs. Garcia.

Methods of Characterization	Sentence Number
Character's words	
Character's actions	
Character's thoughts	
Narrator's description	
Other characters' thoughts, words, and actions	

1. What character trait(s) did the author develop for Jose? \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup>Mr. Smith complained, "Willie is a very smart young man, but he doesn't do his homework. <sup>2</sup>He could get a scholarship with good grades, but he just plays games on his cell phone. <sup>3</sup>Willie also makes excuses for not doing his homework." <sup>4</sup>As Willie listened to the guidance counselor, he slumped in his chair. <sup>5</sup>Willie looked at the floor. <sup>6</sup>*I want to get better grades, but homework is too much work*, he thought. <sup>7</sup>His mother nodded in agreement with Mr. Smith, "You're right, he needs to work harder in class and do his homework."

Methods of Characterization	Sentence Number
Character's words	
Character's actions	
Character's thoughts	
Narrator's description	
Other characters' thoughts, words, and actions	

1. What character trait(s) did the author develop for Willie? \_\_\_\_\_

**Listening**

**Listen** to the story. **Determine the character trait. Defend your answer. (write at least two sentences)**

1. What character trait(s) did the author develop for Ted? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What character trait(s) did the author develop for Alex? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Reading

**Read the passage. Use the phrases to complete the passage to characterize Mark as “tidy”.**

<sup>1</sup>Mark was getting ready for a job interview. <sup>2</sup>He finished \_\_\_\_\_ and put it on. <sup>3</sup>He tied his tie with \_\_\_\_\_ and put on his freshly cleaned suit coat. <sup>4</sup>His wife smiled as she watched him \_\_\_\_\_. <sup>5</sup>*He always has such shiny shoes, she thought.* <sup>6</sup>He looked in the mirror and smiled. <sup>7</sup>*I’m sure to get this job, he thought to himself.* <sup>8</sup>*A second interview has to be a good sign.* <sup>9</sup>He checked his appearance. <sup>10</sup>“\_\_\_\_\_” he said. <sup>11</sup>“Say hello to the new principal of Wilshire Heights!”

polish his shoes

tie with great care

“Perfect,”

ironing his shirt

**Read the passage. Use the phrases to complete the passage to characterize Frank as “bashful”.**

<sup>1</sup>Though the party was going well, Frank stood \_\_\_\_\_ across the room from the punch bowl. <sup>2</sup>Everyone was talking and \_\_\_\_\_. <sup>3</sup>He looked down at the floor in front of him. <sup>4</sup>His lips seemed to be \_\_\_\_\_. <sup>5</sup>Frank wished he had the \_\_\_\_\_ the group of kids and strike up a conversation. <sup>6</sup>Elena asked if he’d like some punch. <sup>7</sup>He mumbled, “Yes,” and \_\_\_\_\_.

courage to join

laughing but him

glued tight

against the wall

blushed



## Writing

Create a character who is self-conscious.

Use at least 5 sentences. Which method(s) of characterization did you use? (box)

Method of Characterization
Character's words
Character's actions
Character's thoughts
Narrator's description
Other characters' thoughts, words, & actions

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Create a character who is self-conscious.

Use at least 5 sentences. Which method(s) of characterization did you use? (box)

Method of Characterization
Character's words
Character's actions
Character's thoughts
Narrator's description
Other characters' thoughts, words, & actions

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---