

About Characters

NAME:

DATE:

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Characterization is the process by which the writer reveals the personality of a character. Characterization is revealed through direct characterization and indirect characterization.

Direct Characterization tells the audience what the personality of the character is. This is the equivalent of **TELLING**.

Example: “The patient boy and quiet girl were both well-mannered and did not disobey their mother.” Explanation: The author is directly telling the audience the personality of these two children. The boy is “patient” and the girl is “quiet.”

Indirect Characterization shows things that reveal the personality of a character. This is the equivalent of **SHOWING**

The acronym **STEAL** can help you remember the five different types of indirect characterization:

Speech	What does the character say? How does the character speak?
Thoughts	What is revealed through the character’s private thoughts and feelings?
Effect on others	How does the character affect others? How do other characters feel about the character? How do they behave around the character or when the character is away?
Actions	What does the character do? How does the character behave?
Looks	What does the character’s looks reveal? What does the character’s clothes reveal? How does the character move, talk? What do these things reveal?

TIP #1: Use the mnemonic device of **STEAL** to remember the five types of indirect characterization

TIP #2: Use indirect characterization to analyze visual media: Film: Look at how the character dresses and moves. Note the facial expressions when the director moves in for a close-up shot. Drama: Pay attention to the way that the characters reveal their thoughts during a soliloquy.

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TITLE	CHARACTER	TYPE (circle): protagonist, antagonist, anti-hero, symbolic, foil, archetype
Direct characterization (What does the narrator or author tell you about the character?)		
Quote from text	Explain why this matters in the story	
Indirect methods of characterization		
	Quote from text	Explain what you learned about the character from this
Speech		
Thoughts/Emotions		
Effect on others		
Actions		
Looks / Clothing /Mannerisms (What do they reveal?)		