

Character Practice

Name _____
Date _____ Period _____

Directions

- Read each numbered item.
- Highlight the specific evidence from the text that lead you to each character trait.
- Circle the **character trait** it describes or suggests.
- Circle the **method of characterization** used by the author to reveal that trait.

Characterization is the way an author develops a character, or reveals who characters are and what they are like.

Direct Characterization - The writer makes direct statements about a character.

Example: Max was an eating machine. He'd never met a meal he didn't like.

Indirect Characterization - The writer gives clues and depends on the reader to draw conclusions (infer) about the character's traits. Five methods of indirect characterization include **what the character says, does, thinks, feels, and what other people say or think about the character.**

Example: Max eyed the boy's donut hungrily. He'd already gobbled up 15 pancakes and two milks, but it was never enough.

EXAMPLE: Luis's mouth twitched, and his fingernails were all bitten short.

Luis is: happy dishonest brave **nervous** DIRECT **INDIRECT**

1. "I know the answer!" Maya shouted at her friend. "I'm not stupid!"

Maya is: unfriendly conceited coy oversensitive DIRECT INDIRECT

2. Vera looked as if a strong gust of wind might carry her away.

Vera is: resourceful unhappy small brilliant DIRECT INDIRECT

3. When he saw his baby brother sniffing in a corner, Cal patted the seat next to him. "Wanna play?"

Cal is: sheepish nervous lonely sympathetic DIRECT INDIRECT

4. Too lazy to actually reach for it, Marty just stared wishfully at the TV remote.

Marty is: confused eager inactive unruly DIRECT INDIRECT

5. Once Mama had made up her mind about the dog, Emma knew it'd be a waste of time to ask again.

Mama is: stubborn brilliant shy brave DIRECT INDIRECT

6. Ariel peeked into the package and thought she might explode. "An iPad! You got me my own iPad?"

Ariel is: anxious excited sensitive meek DIRECT INDIRECT

7. Math came easily to Mary, as it did to her mother, her grandmother, and all of Wilson women before them.

Mary is: bored gullible old intelligent DIRECT INDIRECT

8. His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples how merry. His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry.

He is: frightened perplexed mournful jolly DIRECT INDIRECT

Indirect Characterization

Directions: Read a short description of an event. What is the author revealing about the character without directly telling the reader? Answer in complete sentences. Begin by restating the question.

1. Jake is Cassie's older brother. One day they are walking home from school when a cold front rolls in and the temperature drops 20 degrees. Jake is dressed more appropriately for the weather than Cassie. He takes off his hooded sweatshirt and offers it to her. She gratefully accepts. Jake is now colder, but he is happier.

What does this show about the character of Jake? _____

2. Craig is a football player training over the summer for next season. The coach demands that all players come in at 6:00 AM and lift weights until 8:00 AM, when practice begins. Craig gets there at 5:00 AM to begin his training.

What does this show about the character of Craig? _____

3. Anna volunteered to help Kayla clean her house. When Anna washed the mirrors, Kayla asked her if she used paper towels instead of newspapers. When Anna admitted that she had, Kayla asked her to redo them. Then, while Anna was sweeping, Kayla corrected her on her technique. "Don't just push the dirt around, Anna. SWEEP it," Kayla told Anna.

What does this show about the character of Kayla? _____

4. Kevin found a wallet on the ground. He opened up the wallet and saw an old woman's ID card. Kevin took the ID out of the wallet, walked to the woman's house, and returned the wallet to her.

What does this show about the character of Kevin? _____

5. Jonathan invited a bunch of friends over to his house. He then talked to them for hours about all the trophies that he had won, his rare comic book collection, and how much money his dad makes. His friends did not enjoy their time at Jonathan's.

What does this show about the character of Jonathan? _____
