

Indirect Characterization - STEAL

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 (others feel about the character)	What is revealed through the character's effect on other people? How do other characters feel or behave in reaction to the character?
Actions	What does the character do? How does the character behave?
Looks	What does the character look like? How does the character dress?



Find It: Indirect Characterization

Each pair of sentences below demonstrate both direct and indirect characterization. Circle the letter of the sentence that is an example of indirect characterization.

1.

A. Joe walked up to the new boy in the class and said, "Welcome; I hope you like it here."

B. Kind and friendly, Joe was determined to welcome the new boy in the class.

2.

A. Sonya's shyness often prevented her from going to parties.

B. Sonya stood at the front door a long time, gathering the courage to join the party.

3.

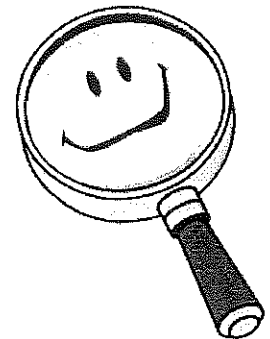
A. David was always polite to his friends' parents.

B. "Thank you for the ride, Mrs. Garcia," said David.

4.

A. Although it was late, Molly knew that if she continued working a little longer her project would be perfect.

B. Molly's good grades were a result of dedication to hard work.



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 sniffling 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

Direct and Indirect Characterization Practice

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 toward the character: What is revealed through the character's effect on other people? How do other characters feel or behave in reaction to the character?

Actions: What does the character do? How does the character behave?

Looks: What does the character look like? How does the character dress?

Keep in mind the five types of *indirect* characterization to help you with the following excerpts. Read the excerpt and write what the author is saying about the character and what method of "STEAL" helped you figure it out.

1. Jessie was the kind of girl who would deliver the newspaper every day, no matter what the weather was like.

Indirect characterization: _____

Method of STEAL: _____

2. "Janine never studies," said Mrs. Johnson. "She thinks she already knows the answers."

Indirect characterization: _____

Method of STEAL: _____

3. Through the door walked in a woman wearing nothing but named brand items from head to toe. Around her neck was a necklace from Tiffany's. Dangling from her arm was a bag from Michael Kors. On her feet were five-inch red bottom high heels.

Indirect characterization: _____

Method of STEAL: _____

4. Tim was walking around the store when he bumped into a display of soup cans, knocking them all over. Tim bought two cartons of eggs then got hit by the automatic door on the way out. It almost broke the eggs. Tim let out a sigh of relief. While walking through the parking lot, Tim tripped over the curb and landed on the eggs, getting them all over his shirt.

Indirect characterization: _____

Method of STEAL: _____

5. John looked proudly at the new painting he had done and decided to enter it in the local art contest.

Indirect characterization: _____

Method of STEAL: _____

Name:

Date:

INFERRING CHARACTER TRAITS

Directions: Read each descriptive sentence in the left column. Decide on one character trait (adjective) that the description reveals about the character. Write your answer in the column labeled “Inferred Character Traits.” Decide which method(s) of characterization is being used. Write the type of method in the space provided for “Methods of Characterization.” If there is more than one character in the descriptive sentence, focus on the character whose name is underlined.

Methods of Characterization
➤ Speech (Words, Dialogue)
➤ Thoughts and Feelings
➤ Effects on Other Characters
➤ Actions
➤ Looks (Appearance)
➤ Direct Comments by Narrator

Descriptive Sentence	Inferred Character Traits	Method of Characterization
1. She thought she could change the world through educating incarcerated youth.	<i>Hopeful</i>	<i>Thoughts and feelings</i>
2. Eddie sat on the edge of his seat all through the horror film and jumped every time he heard a scary noise.		
3. “I’m never going to make it to the top of this hill, wailed Danny as he pedaled his bike. “It’s just too steep.”		
4. “Jacquelyn thinks of others first,” Molly said. “She always stops by to see how I am doing.”		
5. When John arrived at the party, everyone stared at him because he was wearing ripped jeans and a raggedy old T-shirt instead of formal wear.		
6. “No way,” thought the <u>elderly woman</u> as she refused to give up her purse to the robber.		
7. Tara is sneaky and secretive when she finds out something she wasn’t supposed to know.		
8. “ <u>Derek</u> is always complaining about all of the work he has to do,” Jajuan said.		