Characterization

Indirect:

* What does the character say?
* What does the character do?
* What does the character think?
* What does the character feel?
* What do others say about the character?
* What do others think about the character?
* How do others react to the character?

Direct: What does the author tell us in direct statements about the character.

* Physical descriptions
* Stated attributes

In good writing, most characterization will be developed indirectly.

**“I know the answer!” Maya shouted at her friend. “I’m not stupid!”**

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

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

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

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

**Squeaky was a skinny girl with a squeaky voice, which, of course, is how she got her nickname.**

**Tabitha could see the new girl struggling to find her way to her next class. Remembering what it felt like to be the new kid, she went back, extended her hand to the girl and said, “Hi, I’m Tabitha. Need some help?”**

**Aaron leaped from the plane without so much as a moment’s hesitation. Although he was extremely fit, it was more difficult than he had expected to hold his arms at his sides and arch his body into a steep glide. Skydiving was as exciting as he had hoped.**