

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

What a Character

Direct and Indirect Characterization Practice

Directions: Read each passage carefully, and complete the chart below.

- Highlight **clues or statements** in the passage **that tell you what the character is like**.
- Describe the physical or personality trait that the author revealing about the character.
- Write whether the passage is an example of direct characterization, indirect characterization, or both.

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 a gifted musician.

Indirect Characterization - The writer gives clues and depends on the reader to draw conclusions (infer) about the character's traits.

Example: Max could play almost any instrument and never failed to draw an admiring crowd when he did.

Passage	What it reveals about the character	Direct / Indirect / Both
EXAMPLE: Owen looked around to see if anyone was coming, then quietly took the girl's cell phone from her open purse and slipped it into his own pocket.	Owen is sneaky and dishonest.	Direct
1. Squeaky was a skinny girl with a squeaky voice – which, of course, is how she got her nickname.		
2. 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?"		
3. 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.		
4. Millard always looked like he'd just jumped out of bed. His clothes were rumpled, his socks were mismatched, and his hair stuck up all over.		
5. "There's no way I'm letting him beat me," thought Andrea, and she willed her legs to move faster still toward the finish line that seemed a million miles away.		
6. Toni watched the big girl position herself between her most recent victim and the classroom doorway. Instinctively, Toni started to race for the safety of her next class. Then, she hesitated. She saw the fear on the little kid's face and thought, "How can I leave her?"		