

Characterization Notes

A Review of How Characters are Developed

WHAT IS CHARACTERIZATION?

Characterization is the act or method of creating a character.

Direct characterization occurs when the author reveals a character by telling the reader specifically about a character's traits.

-Example: Karen is bright, energetic, and helpful.

Indirect characterization is when the author reveals a character's traits by providing information about the character, allowing the reader to infer the character's traits themselves.

-Example: As the girl left the room, she slammed the door.

(This allows the reader to infer that the girl was angry since she slammed the door.)

TYPES OF CHARACTERS

Protagonists are characters that are the “hero” of the story. They are the main character in a work of fiction. The conflict revolves around this character.

Antagonists are characters that can be the “villain” of the story. They often block or challenge the main character.

Static characters are the same at the beginning and the end of the story. They are minor or secondary characters.

Dynamic characters are those that change as a result of events in the story. They are the protagonists and antagonists.

Round characters are those that have many character traits (like a real person).

Flat characters are those that have one or two character traits.

INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION

Authors use the STEAL method to develop characters indirectly.

Speech: What does the character say? How does the character speak?

Thoughts: What is revealed through the character's private thoughts and feelings?

Effects on others; others' reactions toward the character: What is revealed about the character in how others react to them? What do the other characters think about 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?

WHAT ARE CHARACTER TRAITS?

Character traits are words (adjectives) to describe how characters act during certain situations or what kind of people they are.

They can be separated into positive and negative traits.

POSITIVE TRAITS	NEGATIVE TRAITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Honest● Kind● Happy● Sincere● Patient● Hard-working● Athletic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Rude● Angry● Mean● Mad● Untrusting● Greedy● Lazy

IB LEARNER PROFILES ARE CHARACTER TRAITS

Inquirers develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

Those who are **knowledgeable** explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

Thinkers exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

Communicators understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.

Those who are **principled** act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

IB LEARNER PROFILES ARE CHARACTER TRAITS

Those who are **open-minded** understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.

Those who are **caring** show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

Risk-Takers approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

Those who are **balanced** understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

Those who are **reflective** give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

Character Traits

How is my character as a person?

nice	mean	Sad
bright	angry	antisocial
cheerful	bossy	comfortless
caring	cruel	depressed
charming	dark	down
considerate	disrespectful	friendless
delightful	evil	gloomy
encouraging	harsh	glum
friendly	hateful	heartbroken
kind	impolite	heavy-hearted
likable	insensitive	hopeless
loving	raging	isolated
peaceful	rude	lonely
pleasant	selfish	lonesome
polite	spoiled	miserable
respectful	thoughtless	moody
sensitive	uncaring	sorrowful
sweet	unfriendly	unhappy
thoughtful	unpleasant	withdrawn

Does a lot	Does very little
active	bored/boring
adventurous	dull
ambitious	indifferent
bold	lazy
busy	neglectful
energetic	sluggish
hard-working	uninterested

positive	negative
cooperative	uncooperative
calm	reactive
dependable	undependable
fair	unfair
honest	dishonest
humble	conceited
mature	immature
patient	impatient
responsible	irresponsible
trustworthy	untrustworthy

confident	nervous
assertive	anxious
brave	concerned
certain	fearful
courageous	hesitant
fearless	uncertain
independent	uneasy
sure	unsure

Opposites	
calm	hyperactive
funny	serious
gentle	rough
glamorous	simple
shy	loud
quiet	noisy