

Character Traits Mini-lesson #2

INTRODUCTION: CHARACTER TRAITS/EMOTIONS/MOTIVES

WHOLE GROUP

Materials: Example: Character Traits Portrait Reproducible

Characters are the people or animals in a story. The details that tell about their personalities are called character traits. The traits of a character can be stated or shown to the reader by the character's actions. When looking at characters, notice details about how they look, feel and act.

Identifying and understanding characters' traits, emotions, and motives help the reader understand the characters.

As you read about characters look for:

- **What the character looks like**
- **What the character says and thinks**
- **What the character does**
- **What the character feels**
- **What others say and think about the character**
- **How the character changes over time with experiences**

Key Phrases:

When the character (says, does, feels, thinks) _____, I learn _____ about the character.

I think the character is _____ because _____.

LESSON 2

Materials: Character Traits Strategy Definition
Character Traits Words Reproducible

- Review the strategy using the definition reproducible provided.
- Name and define the strategy including why and when to use the strategy during reading.
- Introduce the second part of the definition (Inside/Outside Traits and Evidence from Text).

Another way to examine characters is by understanding the difference between outside traits (what the character looks or acts like) and inside traits (how the character feels about himself/herself, events in the story and other characters).

As you learn about characters and their traits, it is important to give evidence from the text to support your thinking.

MODELING THE STRATEGY

Materials: Picture book **The Memory String** by Eve Bunting
Character Study Reproducible
Character Trait Words Chart
Sticky Notes

- **I showed you how to find clues by paying attention to what Laura's character saw, thought, said and felt. Now I am going to share parts of The Memory String by looking for "inside traits" and "outside traits". This time, I am going to concentrate on the character of Jane. I am going to think aloud and give evidence from the text to support my thinking.**
- The teacher begins reading and pauses at each stopping point to think aloud.
- **Jane is wearing skinny-leg jeans. I'm thinking that means she is thin. That's how she looks on the outside. I'm going to add that to my chart and give evidence from the text.**
- **Mmm . . . I can tell Jane is happy on page 12 because Laura lets me know. Sometimes other characters help you understand how a character feels on the inside.**
- **I know Jane has been working hard because she is stiff and needs a lemonade break. It is right there in the text on page 7. That is an outside trait because I can see it with my eyes.**
- **Now it's our turn. Turn to your partner and say, _____ is _____ because the text tells me _____. If you need help you can refer to the chart. Be ready to share your thinking with the class.**
- Allow students just enough time to discuss their thinking with their partner. Invite several students to share their thoughts with the class and add their responses to the graphic organizer.

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER EXAMPLE:

CHARACTER: JANE

Outside Traits <i>What does the character look and act like?</i>	Evidence From Text <i>What does the text say? Where can I find it?</i>
1. <i>Jane is thin.</i>	<i>On page 7, Jane is wearing skinny-leg jeans.</i>
2. <i>Jane is hard-working.</i>	<i>On page 7 Jane is stiff from all the painting.</i>
3. <i>Jane is helpful.</i>	<i>On page 13 Jane rushes to help find the buttons and gets down to look for them.</i>

Inside Traits <i>How does the character feel?</i>	Evidence From Text <i>What does the text say? Where can I find it?</i>
1. <i>Jane is happy.</i>	<i>Laura says she thinks Jane is happy on page 12.</i>
2. <i>Jane is excited.</i>	<i>When Jane finds the button (page 28) she dances with Laura's father.</i>
3. <i>Jane is caring.</i>	<i>On page 25, Jane knows how important it is to find the real button.</i>

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

*Materials: Text at Students' Independent Reading Level
Character Study Reproducible
Character Trait Words Reproducible*

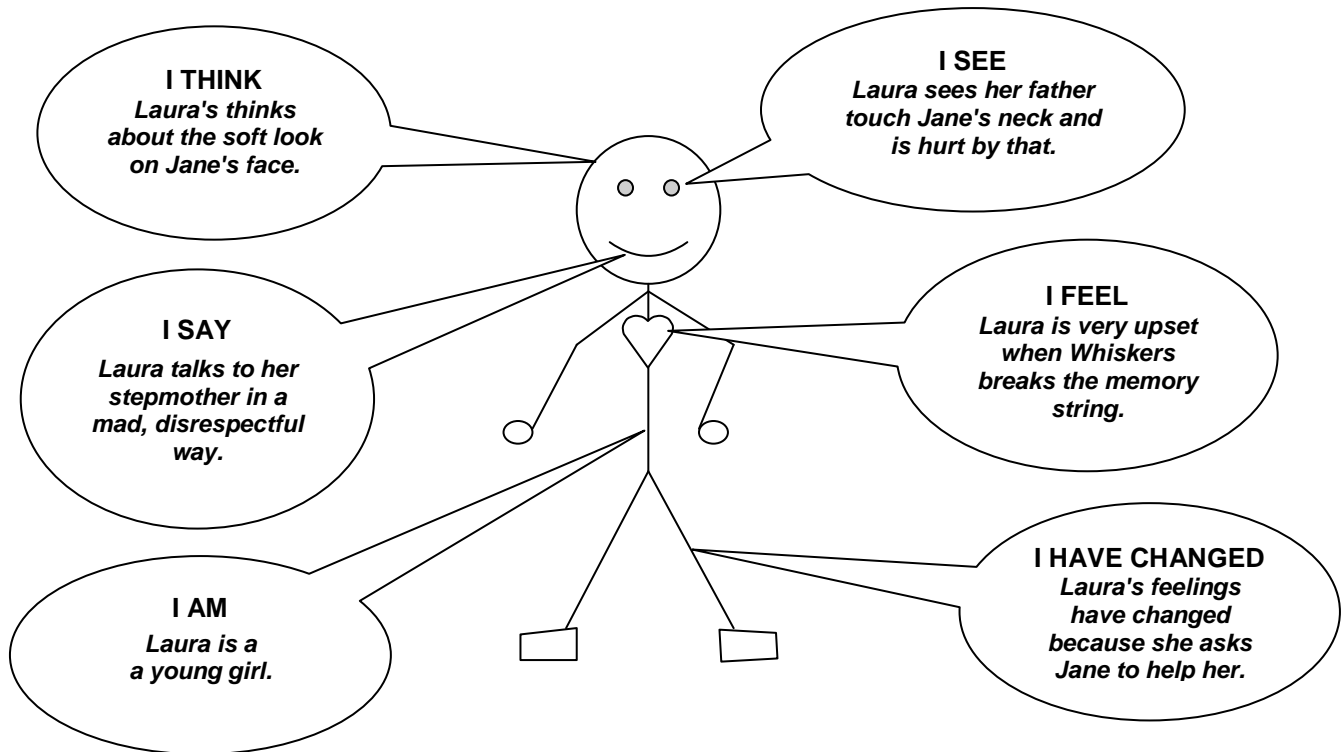
- Students select and read a text at their independent reading level that contains character traits/emotions/motives.
- Students independently complete the Character Study Reproducible
- Students share their chart with a partner.
- Teacher reviews what was learned today by asking:

“What have you learned today about inside/outside character traits?”

“Why is it important to give evidence of your learning?”

EXAMPLE: Character Traits Portrait Reproducible

CHARACTER: *Laura*



<u>Character Traits</u>	
Laura is:	
<i>mad</i>	<i>thoughtful</i>
<i>lonely</i>	<i>unhappy</i>
<i>shy</i>	<i>emotional</i>
<i>smart</i>	<i>confused</i>
<i>caring</i>	<i>upset</i>

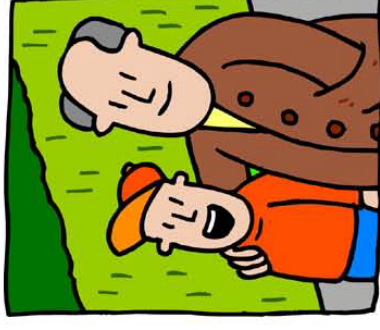
Character Traits

Characters are the people or animals in a story. The details that tell about their personalities are called character traits. The traits of a character can be stated or shown to the reader by the character's actions.

Identifying and understanding character traits, emotions, and motives helps the reader understand the characters.

As you read, notice:

- what the character looks like
- what the character says and thinks
- what the character does and why
- what others say and think about the character
- how characters interact with other characters
- how a character changes over time with experiences



Key Phrases:

- I noticed that _____ because _____.
- When the character (says, does, feels, thinks) _____, I learn _____.
- I think that _____ (thoughts, feelings) change after _____.

CHARACTER STUDY

The details that tell about a character's personality are called character traits. These traits can be seen on the outside (what a character looks or acts like) or on the inside (how a character feels about himself/herself, events in the story, and others). As you read today, choose one character and identify three outside and three inside traits along with evidence from the text.

CHARACTER: _____ TEXT _____

Outside Traits <i>What does the character look and act like?</i>	Evidence From Text <i>What does the text say? Where can I find it?</i>
1.	
2.	
3.	

Inside Traits <i>How does the character feel?</i>	Evidence From Text <i>What does the text say? Where can I find it?</i>
1.	
2.	
3.	

Name _____

CHARACTER TRAIT WORDS

afraid	generous	patient
bad	happy	pretty
brave	handsome	proud
calm	hard-working	quiet
careless	helpful	respectful
caring	honest	rude
cheerful	humble	sad
childish	impatient	scared
considerate	intelligent	selfish
confident	jealous	serious
confused	kind	shy
creative	lazy	silly
cruel	lonely	smart
dishonest	loyal	stubborn
easy-going	loving	talented
emotional	mean	talkative
forgetful	neat	thoughtful
friendly	nervous	unhappy
funny	nice	upset
		worried
