

Character Development and Analysis

Once students have carefully studied a character, and understand their character traits, they should be able to predict what the character would do, say, think, or feel in a variety of situations. Students need to understand the motives of the character and how it influences the plot line.

Students should then understand that a character travels in pursuit of goals, and the experiences that characters face often change the character throughout the story.

Point of view is also critical in understanding a story. Understanding point of view will allow students to get into the author's mind and better understand the characters and the story. Character development and analysis of characters can be seen in a variety of benchmarks, not limited to plot development questions.

Exploring Characters

How do authors make characters seem like real people?

- ❖ Authors show what a character looks like, what he says and does, and what he thinks and feels, and what other characters think, feel, and say about him.
- ❖ Authors show a character's dreams, goals, memories, habits, and attitudes.
- ❖ Authors give a character realistic problems to solve. The character makes decisions, takes actions, overcomes problems, or fails to achieve his goals.

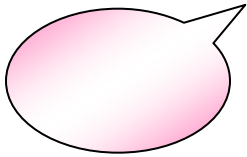
List of authors who create awesome characters:

- Beverly Cleary
- Sharon Creech
- Roald Dahl
- Paula Danziger
- Jean Craighead George
- Brian Jacques
- C.S. Lewis
- A.A. Milne
- Katherine Paterson
- Gary Paulsen
- J.K. Rowling
- E.B. White

Author's Toolbox for Bringing a Character to Life



You get to know a character by what he does



You get to know a character by what he says and by what others say about him



You get to know a character by his thoughts and by what others think about him



You get to know a character by his feelings and by what others feel about him



You get to know a character by what the writer tells you about the way he looks

Character Vocabulary

1. loyalty
2. tolerance
3. discipline
4. citizenship
5. trustworthy
6. cooperative
7. caring
8. fairness
9. integrity
10. education
11. reliance
12. courage
13. respect
14. punctuality
15. kindness
16. patience
17. character
18. responsibility
19. honesty

ABC Listing of Character Vocabulary

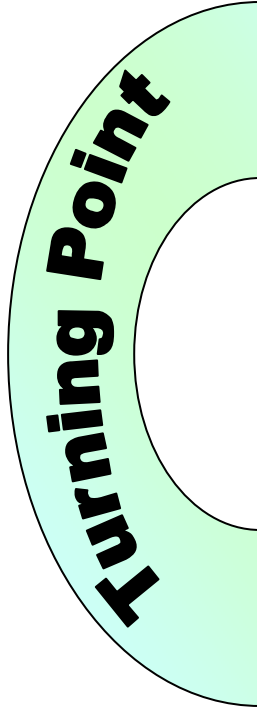
- A** is for ability, asset, aptitude, attitude, accepting, appreciating, altruism
- B** is for benevolence, bonding, bravery
- C** is for caring, compassion, cooperation, citizenship, considerate, control, cheerfulness, civility, courage
- D** is for dedicated, donor, dignity, dependability, discrete, diplomatic
- E** is for empathy, enthusiasm, equity
- F** is for fairness, friends, faithfulness, and forgiving
- G** is for goodness, gratitude
- H** is for helpfulness, honesty, honorable, hard work
- I** is for industrious, inventive, integrity, inspire
- J** is for just(ice)
- K** is for kindness, kinship
- L** is for listening, loyalty, love, lawfulness, legitimate
- M** is for manners, mastery, merit, moral
- N** is for noble, nice
- O** is for orderly, observant, ownership, obedience
- P** is for politeness, patience, perseverance, pride, philanthropy, punctuality
- Q** is for quality
- R** is for respect, responsibility, resolute, regard, reasonable, rational, reliance
- S** is for sharing, special, sympathetic, supportive, self-esteem, self-control, self-reliance
- T** is for trustworthiness, teamwork, tolerance, temperate, truth, thrift
- U** is for understanding, united, unique, unity
- V** is for values, valiant, valor, veracious, veracity
- W** is for welcoming, worthy, watchful, worker
- X** is for (e)xcellence
- Y** is for yourself
- Z** is for zest

Character Development FCAT Questions

Below are examples of FCAT questions that address character analysis or character development in a story.

1. How does the first _____ change in the story?
(similarities/differences between characters)
2. How are the two _____ DIFFERENT in the way that they collect firewood and **act** toward trees?
(similarities/differences between characters)
3. How did _____'s actions make her a very important person? (cause/effect)
4. Which phrase best describes the narrator's father?
5. Why does _____ avoid telling _____ the story behind her nickname?
6. After their journey, how is _____, DIFFERENT from _____? (similarities/differences between characters)
7. Why did _____ try to fly around the world?
(cause/effect)

Story Map Showing Character Change



Character at the Beginning	Events that Caused Change	Character at the End

Character Change Notes for _____

Changes in: Story Segments:	Feelings	Actions
Beginning		
Middle		
End		

Name: _____

Date: _____