

Part 2 – Characterization

Characterization is the way an author develops a character, or reveals their personality to readers.

Direct Characterization – The writer makes direct statements about a character.

Example: The bagboy was clumsy and careless.

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

Example: The bagboy tossed the frozen turkey into our bag, right on top of the doughnuts.

Directions:

- Match each passage with the character trait it reveals by drawing a line.
- Underline clues or statements in the passage that tell you what the character is like.
- Identify the type of characterization used in each passage.

The first one is done for you as an example.

Ex. "I know just how you feel," Aaron said soothingly.

Direct Characterization / Indirect Characterization / Both

1. "Go here. Do that. Who does he think he is?" snapped Ty.

Direct Characterization / Indirect Characterization / Both

2. She plummeted toward the river but, just before reaching it, was jerked upward again. Bungee-jumping was a rush!

Direct Characterization / Indirect Characterization / Both

3. Wiley's reputation as a scoundrel was well-deserved.

Direct Characterization / Indirect Characterization / Both

4. "That's the one I wanted," Shari's sister squealed when she saw Shari's new swimsuit. "How come you get a new one and I always have to wear hand-me-downs?"

Direct Characterization / Indirect Characterization / Both

5. Impatient, the children piped up from the backset yet again, "How much longer until we get there?"

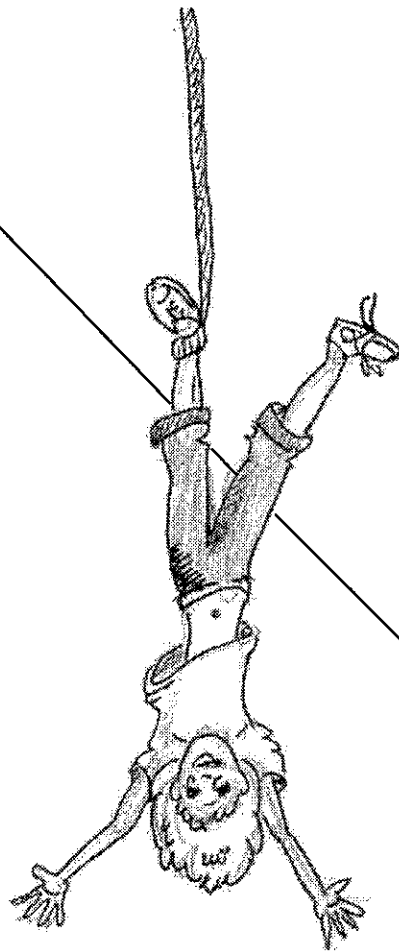
Direct Characterization / Indirect Characterization / Both

6. As the paper airplane sailed past her head, Miss Linda casually plucked it from the air and--ignoring the chaos all around her--deposited it in the wastebasket along with the spitballs she shook from her matted hair.

Direct Characterization / Indirect Characterization / Both

7. Thurston was deeply superficial.

Direct Characterization / Indirect Characterization / Both



adventurous

anxious

bossy

crooked

empathetic

jealous

shallow

tolerant

E-x-t-e-n-s-i-o-n Activity: Can you identify the *method of indirect characterization* used in the examples above?