

# Character Traits

Becoming Analyzing Readers

# What is a Character Trait?

- A word to describe a person
- Not a physical trait which describes a person's physical features (the way they look) or their abilities. Example: tall
- A *character trait* focuses on a person's personality or demeanor (the way they act). Example: funny

# How Does Analyzing Character Traits Help You Become a Better Reader?

- When you are able to identify a character's traits, you are able to understand their actions and motives.
- You can make predictions about how a character will react to different situations.
- Understanding the character gives you an understanding of the story.

# How to Determine Traits

- Try to identify permanent traits and not just a temporary emotion that goes against a person's normal character makeup.
- A good rule of thumb is to identify traits that you can supply plenty of examples and not just one.

# Is It Easy?

- Not hard with a little thought.
- Characters are an important element of story.
- The traits of a character can be stated or can be shown to the reader by the character's actions.

# For Example

- When you are reading a story the author may tell you the character is a generous person.
- The author may also show you that the character is generous by telling about a time he/she acted generously.

# 5 Ways to identify a Character's Traits in a Story

1. What the character says and thinks
2. What the character does
3. What others say and think about the character
4. How others react to the character

# How to Explain/Prove a Person's Character Traits

- Use specific examples and then make a connection between the example and trait.
- For example, if you say Brian (The River – Gary Paulsen) is brave, it is not acceptable to say he traveled down the river and overcame many obstacles.
- Instead, you must specifically explain the obstacles and THEN explain how this makes him a brave person.



# So, Always

- state trait.....give example.....make connection

# The Hare and the Tortoise

The hare was arrogant and confident.

**Trait:** Confident

**Proof/Action:** He decided he would take a rest.

**Connection:** He thought there was not way that s-l-o-w turtle could catch up to him. He thought the turtle was so slow that a small nap would not do any harm. He would not have napped if he thought it would cost him the race.

# Review

1. What are character traits? ▶
2. What is the difference between a character trait and physical trait? ▶
3. How do you think character traits will help you become a better reader? ▶

# Practise

- Character traits of Kristen
- Example and connection between trait and example
- Physical traits of Kristen
- Character traits for Walk
- Physical traits

# Get Ready...

- Let's practice our skills
- Read, 'First Impressions'
- Choose a character to which you can identify
- Use the graphic organizer to record 4 character traits of that person
- Supply to examples or proof from the story to support that character trait
- Use any physical characteristics to help you draw and colour the character

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