

Characterization is the process by which the writer reveals the personality of the character. This happens through either **DIRECT** or **INDIRECT** characterization.

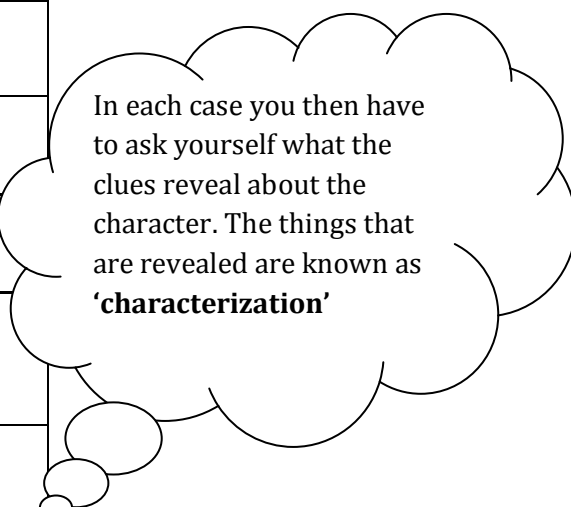
A) Direct Characterization – The narrator or another character **tells** us what a person is like.

Ex. The boy was angry at his sister.

B) Indirect Characterization – the narrator **shows** us things that reveal the personality of a character and requires the reader to look for **clues** that reveal the traits and motivations. As you notice these clues, your job as an academic student is to ask yourself what the clues reveal or why the clues matter.

Indirect characterization can occur through the following methods (**STEAL**):

STEAL	Questions to ask yourself as you read
Speech	What does the character say? How does the character speak?
Thoughts	What is revealed through the character's private thoughts and feelings?
Effect on other characters	What is the character's effect on other people? How do other characters feel or behave in reaction to 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?



In each case you then have to ask yourself what the clues reveal about the character. The things that are revealed are known as **'characterization'**

For example, you could be asked to examine the following quotation to explain what the quotation reveals about the character.

Quotation	A) Character & What you Learn? (state a quality)	B) Which of STEAL? (underline one)	C) How do You Know? (explain)
"The young boy's face was flushed red and the vein at the base of his neck pulsed furiously. His words were loud and harsh and were punctuated by the glass he threw across the room which smashed a few short feet away from where his sister sat, motionless and afraid."		Speech Thoughts Effect on Others Actions Looks	

Your response should be something like this:

Quotation	A) Character & What you Learn? (state a quality)	B) Which of STEAL? (underline one)	C) How do You Know? (explain)
<p>"The young boy's face was flushed red and the vein at the base of his neck pulsed furiously. His words were loud and harsh and were punctuated by the glass he threw across the room which smashed a few short feet away from where his sister sat, motionless and afraid."</p>	<p><i>Young boy</i></p> <p><i>Violent when angry</i></p>	<p>Speech</p> <p>Thoughts</p> <p>Effect on Others</p> <p><u>Actions</u></p> <p>Looks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He uses loud and hurtful words - He shows the physical signs we know as anger when he turns red and his veins pulse - while angry he throws something at his sister that could injure her - this dangerous action shows that he is violent

Task: For each quotation listed in the chart, identify:

- A) what you learn about the character,
- B) which method (STEAL) helps you to learn it (sometimes this information is given to you) and
- C) how the quotation helps you to learn it.

Quotation	A) Character & What you Learn? (state a quality)	B) Which of STEAL? (underline one)	C) How do You Know? (explain)
<p>"I was frightened - and not ashamed to admit it." (28)</p>	<p><i>Peter</i></p> <p><i>-afraid</i></p>	<p><u>Speech</u></p> <p>Thoughts</p> <p>Effect on Others</p> <p>Actions</p> <p>Looks</p>	<p><i>-Peter is afraid because only he knows the importance of the hat and his involvement in the wall/rock incident</i></p> <p><i>-shows he knows that the consequences of his act will lead to a punishment</i></p> <p><i>-explains his motivation to take the drastic action of leaving home to stay safe</i></p>
<p>"...for I knew very well what sort of questioning he meant. I knew I couldn't stand torture. If the law let them do that, even a little of it, I knew I should blurt out the names of every man and boy who'd been there that night." (30)</p>	<p><i>Peter</i></p>	<p>Speech</p> <p><u>Thoughts</u></p> <p>Effect on Others</p> <p>Actions</p> <p>Looks</p>	

Quotation	A) Character & What you Learn? (state a quality)	B) Which of STEAL? (underline one)	C) How do You Know? (explain)
<p>“My friend is a magistrate,” Sir Philip was saying, “and you’ll realize that, if he likes, he can forbid your play altogether and ruin your tour in this part of the country. So you better be civil.” (43)</p>	<p><i>Sir Philip Morton</i></p>	<p>Speech Thoughts Effect on Others Actions Looks</p>	
<p>“There was a big chest among the actors’ properties: I suppose it was used for storing costumes when they moved from place to place. It was long, narrow and deep. Also it was empty and unlocked. It was a desperate chance, but the only one. I hopped inside and pulled down the lid.” (43)</p>		<p>Speech Thoughts Effect on Others Actions Looks</p>	
<p>“I lay there in a hot sweat, my heart thumping away like a waterwheel” (45)</p>		<p>Speech Thoughts Effect on Others Actions Looks</p>	
<p>“The situation was desperate, but with each narrow escape I was getting more and more weary of the whole business. I just wanted this wild adventure to end, even if it ended by capture.”</p>		<p>Speech Thoughts Effect on Others Actions Looks</p>	

Now start your own chart and as you read the rest of the novel, continue to collect quotations that you think are important. Aim for 1-2 quotations per chapter.