



Character Traits

By: Janelle Cox
M.S. in Education

Language Arts
Grades 3-5



Introduction

Introduce the term character traits to students by writing it on an anchor chart. Write that a character trait is a quality of a character in a story that includes a variety of descriptive words that help the character to come life. Then, as a class, have students list possible character traits (brave, neat, friendly, messy, etc.). Next, choose a character that students are familiar with and have them identify the characters traits and write them on the anchor chart. Using the traits that students have come up, challenge students to work together as a class to sort the traits (inside/outside, positive/negative, personality, physical, values, etc.).

Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to identify character traits as well as sort traits by type.
- Students will also be able to determine specific character traits through a character's behavior and/or actions as well as list character traits from a book and show textual evidence.

Materials Needed

- Anchor chart on character traits
- Familiar fictional book
- Graphic organizer

Procedure

1. Now that students understand what character traits are, choose a familiar story to re-read to the students. However, this time when you read the book, stop and identify evidence from the text that supports each of the characters traits, write this on the board.
2. After the story is completed, challenge students to come up with traits to describe the main character. Then have students brainstorm actions that the character would display. For example, the word generous can describe the main character because she is always giving to others.
3. Next, put students together into pairs and give them a leveled text to read. Have students work together to determine the character's traits based on their actions, words, and thoughts. Have students use sticky notes to mark the evidence in the book that supports the reasoning for each trait.
4. Once students have completed the activity, call up pairs to discuss their findings.

Continued on page 2



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Continued from page 1

Evaluation

Have students fill out a [character trait graphic organizer](#) based on their favorite book. Students are to write the story title, name of character, two traits of the character, as well as evidence from the text.