

Character Traits: Show, Don't Tell

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Student will be able to identify a character's traits based on the character's actions, words, and choices rather than a direct description.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- A book or story the student is currently reading
- paper
- colored pencils or markers
- scissors
- glue stick

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Choose one main character from a book you are reading (or a favorite movie/show if no book is available).
2. Fold a piece of paper in half. On the left side, list 4 actions or lines of dialogue from that character.
3. On the right side, next to each action, write the trait (word) it reveals about the character.
4. In the center of a new page, draw or glue a small picture/symbol representing the character and surround it with the 4 trait words to make a 'trait web.'
5. Circle the one trait you think most defines the character and explain why in one sentence at the bottom.

QUESTIONS

1. Name your character and list two traits you identified.

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2. For one trait, what specific action or line of dialogue proved it? This is called indirect characterization.

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3. Why do authors usually show traits through actions instead of just telling the reader directly?

4. Which trait did you circle as most defining, and why?
