

Indirect Characterization: Building a Character Dossier

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Student will be able to gather and organize evidence of a character's personality using the categories of speech, thoughts, effect on others, actions, and looks (STEAL).

MATERIALS NEEDED

- The same book/story
- paper
- ruler
- pen or pencil
- markers

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Using a ruler, draw a 5-row chart on paper labeled: Speech, Thoughts, Effect on others, Actions, Looks (STEAL).
2. Reread a section of your book and fill in at least one specific example from the text for each row.
3. For each row, write the trait that example reveals in a different color.
4. At the top of the page, design a 'wanted poster' or ID card style header for the character using your markers.
5. Write a 3-sentence character summary at the bottom combining at least 3 of the traits you found.

QUESTIONS

1. Which STEAL category gave you the clearest evidence about your character, and why?

2. Give one example each of what the character says and what the character does that reveal different or matching traits.

3. Write your 3-sentence character summary here.

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4. **How does understanding a character's full personality (not just one trait) help you understand the story's theme?**
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