

Characterization: Character Trading Cards

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will distinguish direct and indirect characterization by analyzing two characters through textual evidence.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 4 index cards
- colored pencils or markers
- ruler
- the text

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Fold two index cards in half to make two mini trading cards, one for Rainsford and one for Zaroff.
2. On the front of each, draw a simple portrait based on how the text describes the character.
3. Inside each card, list 3 direct characterization details and 3 indirect characterization details for that character, citing a quote or scene for each.
4. Add a 'stat line' rating each character 1-10 on Confidence, Morality, and Skill, with a one-sentence justification for each rating.
5. Compare your two cards and circle the trait each character has that the other lacks.

QUESTIONS

1. Give one example of direct characterization for General Zaroff.
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2. Give one example of indirect characterization for Rainsford.
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3. What is the difference between direct and indirect characterization?
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4. Which trait differs most between Rainsford and Zaroff, and how does that difference drive the conflict?
