## Understanding Characters

The first skill you have to learn when understanding stories is the ability to identify characters and their traits. Luckily, you have been practicing these skills for a long time.

| Vocabulary |  |
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| Character | The people, animals, or creatures in a story that push the story along. |
| Features | The physical qualities of a character. Things you can observe with senses. |
| Traits | The internal qualities of a character. You have to infer these from actions, <br> behaviors, and dialogue. |
| Motivations | The desires that drive a character's actions. |
| Dialogue | The words that a character speaks in a book. |

## Character

Most stories have at least one character in it. The characters are usually different from each other in many ways. You need to be able to identify a character's features and traits by analyzing their descriptions and actions.

## Character Features

| Feature Examples |
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## Character Traits

## Trait Examples

# Inferring Character Traits 

 Here is a list of common character traits| Active | Careful | Cowardly | Fair | Loyal |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Adventurous | Caring | Cruel | Foolish | Stubborn |
| Loving | Charming | Curious | Generous | Picky |
| Nervous | Childish | Jealous | Hopeful | Proud |
| Bossy | Competitive | Greedy | Ignorant | Respectful |
| Boastful | Confident | Creative | Impatient | Responsible |
| Brave | Understanding | Dishonest | Impolite | Selfish |
| Calm | Helpful | Determined | Independent | Sneaky |

## Always think about a character's A, B, D's!

| Actions | Think about the actions a character takes in a story. <br> 1. Does the character try to help people or hurt people? <br> 2. Does the character think before they do something? <br> 3. Does the character move a lot or little? <br> 4. Does the character give things or take things? |
| :---: | :---: |
| Behaviors | Think about the behaviors a character displays in a story. <br> 1. Does the character take risks or play it safe? <br> 2. Does the character make good choices or bad choices? <br> 3. Does the character have a positive or negative attitude? <br> 4. Does the character show off or take out of the spot light? |
| Dialogue | Think about the words a character says in a story. <br> 1. Does the character say nice things or mean things? <br> 2. Does the character speak intelligently or dimly? <br> 3. Does the character speak in an excited way or a bored way? |

