# 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			
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, 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



#### Character Traits

Feature Examples

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!

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