

Teacher Notes



Character and Characterization

Activity 2 Collaborating on Character and Characterization

Activity at a Glance

- ◆ **Subject:** English
- ◆ **Subject Area:** English/Language Arts
- ◆ **Category:** Literary Elements
- ◆ **Topic:** Character and Characterization
- ◆ **Grade Level:** 6 - 12
- ◆ **Prerequisites:** None
- ◆ **Total Teaching Time:** 60 minutes

Materials

- ◆ TI-83 Plus or TI-83 Plus Silver Edition
- ◆ NoteFolio™ Application and file:
CHARA2.8xv
- ◆ TI External Keyboard
- ◆ Short story, selected by teacher

Activity Overview

Using a short story of the teacher's choosing, the students will analyze the main characters. The students will study the characterization of the main characters and create brief character sketches of those characters. With the teacher's assistance, the students will then evaluate how characterization is used to contribute to the meaning and literary merit of the selected short story.

Tip

It is important to choose a short story (or stories) in which the characterization is clear and adds to the meaning and literary craft exhibited in the story. Ideally, the selected story (or stories) should feature several prominent characters that the students can critique.

Directions

Before the Activity Begins

Review the terms *character*, *characterization*, *protagonist*, and *antagonist*. Refer to the character sketches from Activity 1 as a form of quick review. Inform the students that in the literature they read inside and outside of class, character and characterization are important to the meaning and merit of the story. Tell the students that today they will read a short story and analyze the main characters and their characterization using the same method they practiced in Activity 1.

Distribute the NoteFolio™ file, **CHARA2.8xv**, to each student in class. Use the same procedure as used in Activity 1 to distribute and use the NoteFolio™ file.

During the Activity

Divide the students into small groups of three or four. Direct the students to read the short story in their groups. (The groups can all read the same story or you can assign each group a different story.) Remind them to pay special attention to the details related to the characters and characterization.

When the groups have read their stories, visit each group and help them identify the main characters of the story. Using their TI-83 Plus devices and the new NoteFolio file, they are to analyze these characters. Each student in the group should analyze a different character. When the character analysis is completed, each student writes a character sketch for his/her character and shares it with the group.

Students will use the TI-83 Plus device, keyboard, and the NoteFolio™ file, **CHARA2.8xv**, to analyze their character. Each student will be prompted to:

- ◆ identify the story
- ◆ identify the character
- ◆ identify attributes of characterization
- ◆ identify the character as protagonist, antagonist, or neither (minor character)
- ◆ write and share a brief character sketch
- ◆ critique the function of the development of character in the story

After the Activity

Select students to share their character sketches. As a class, critique the sketches for accuracy. Students should agree on and understand character and characterization as developed by details of appearance, actions/behavior, thoughts/feelings, and statements. Students should also be able to identify the characters as protagonist, antagonist, or, in some cases, neither.

Afterward, critique the author's use of character as related to the meaning and literary merit of the story. Inform students that they will be developing original characters using these criteria in the next activity. (If more than one story is used by the students, select the one most familiar to the class.)