

Teacher Notes



Character and Characterization

Activity 3 Assessing Character and Characterization

Activity Overview

Students will develop original characters as protagonists or antagonists. The NoteFolio™ file on the TI-83 Plus device will prompt them in doing this using the criteria established in Activities 1 and 2. Students will write brief character sketches for their original characters. Finally, students will assess each other's characters by exchanging character sketches using the unit-to-unit cables. Then students will follow prompts designed to facilitate meaningful critiques of one another's character sketches.

Tip

Create a list of possible character types for the students to choose from to develop their original characters. This can be displayed on a transparency during the activity. Some students may have ideas of their own, and they should be encouraged to use them in preference to using just the list the teacher provides.

Directions

Before the Activity Begins

Review the terms *character*, *characterization*, *protagonist*, and *antagonist*. Review how character is developed through details of appearance, actions/behavior, thoughts/feelings, and statements. Refer to Activities 1 and 2 to do so. Distribute the NoteFolio file, **CHARA3.8xv**, to each student in the class, using the same procedure from Activity 1.

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:** 80 minutes

Materials

- ◆ TI-83 Plus or TI-83 Plus Silver Edition
- ◆ NoteFolio™ Application and file:
CHARA3.8xv
- ◆ TI External Keyboard
- ◆ Unit-to-unit cables

During the Activity

Begin by leading the students in brainstorming possible ideas for characters, character's names, and character's attributes. Direct students to use their TI-83 Plus device to develop their original characters. If the teacher desires, characters may be developed by teams of two students. Each student (or team) will be prompted to do the following to develop his/her character:

- ◆ Choose a character type (students may use their own ideas).
- ◆ *Sample choices:* evil, good, funny, magic, insane, corrupt, benevolent, innocent, worldly, jaded, idealistic, youthful, elderly, playful, serious, mischievous, human, animal, alien, and so forth.
- ◆ Designate the character as a protagonist or antagonist.
- ◆ Name the character.
- ◆ Develop the character's attributes.
- ◆ Write a brief character sketch using the NoteFolio™ App Var **CHARA3.8xv**.

After each student or team has developed the character and written the sketch, students will exchange character sketches using unit-to-unit cables for the purpose of sharing and assessing one another's characters for quality and depth. Students will be prompted to assess each other's characters for effective development of the character's attributes and to specifically name or critique each attribute.

After the Activity

When the peer critiques are completed, the critique files should be sent to the author(s) for review. Give the students some time to review their critique. If desired, the teacher can allow the students to revise their characterization to incorporate suggestions from the reviewer.

After reviewing the critiques, bring the class together to discuss the characterizations the students created and reviewed. Encourage the class to discuss their successes as well as to bring up problems they encountered.

If the class is using this lesson to build up to writing their own narrative, it might be helpful to the class to look at some of the problems various students encountered in developing their characters and as a class, to brainstorm ideas for resolving them. Remind the class (if appropriate) that these characters can be used in their narrative, and future lessons should be worked with these characters in mind.