

English 8
Characterization

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Characterization

Characterization is a literary device that is used in literature to highlight and explain the **details about a character** in a story. An author can use two approaches to deliver information about a character and build an image of it. These **two types of characterization** include:

1. Direct Characterization

This kind of characterization takes a direct approach towards building the character. It uses another character, narrator, or the protagonist himself to **tell** the readers or audience about the character.

1. Indirect Characterization

This is a more subtle way of introducing the character to the audience. The audience has to deduce for themselves the characteristics of the character by paying close attention.. The author uses the character's thought process, behavior, speech, way of talking, appearance, and manner of communication to **show** the reader about the character.

Instructions:

As you read, pay attention to the characterization of one of the characters in the text. Write down any observations that you make as well as the type of characterization that was used by the text. Finally, write the quote and page number in the last column.

Character: Nancy Lee Johnson

| Observation | Type of Characterization | Evidence (Quote/pg #) |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Nancy is African American</i> | Direct | "Nancy Lee Johnson was a colored girl, a few years out of the South...She was smart, pretty and brown..." |
| <i>Nancy is confident</i> | Indirect | "Nancy Lee's drawing was so good, her lines so sure, her colors so bright and harmonious, that certainly no other student in the senior art class at George Washington High was thought to have |

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| | | very much of a chance.” |
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| Observation | Type of Characterization | Evidence (Quote/pg #) |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| <i>Nancy is a talented artist</i> | Indirect | “Nancy Lee’s drawing was so good, her lines so sure, her colors so bright and harmonious...” |
| <i>Nancy is studious, smart and active</i> | Indirect | “She stood high in scholarship, played a swell game of basketball, had taken part in the senior musical in a soft, velvety voice, and had never seemed to intrude or stand out, except in pleasant ways...” |

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