CHARACTERIZATION
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• Characters are the people, animals, or imaginary creatures in a story.
• The main character is the one who the story is mostly about.
Readers come to know a character through the character’s words, thoughts, and actions.
Analyze characters including their

- Traits
- Motivations
- Conflicts
- Points of view
- Relationships
- Changes they undergo
Characters have certain traits, or qualities, that make them unique and set them apart from the other characters.

Is your character

- skillful?
- thoughtful?
- intelligent?
- dishonest?
- persistent?
- concerned?
- fearful?
- determined?
- friendly?
- lazy?
- capable?
- wise?
A character’s motivation is what makes him/her think, feel, or act in a particular way.

When you know the reasons for a character’s actions, thoughts, or feelings, you understand his/her motivation.

A character’s motivation influences his/her actions. The actions, in turn, reveal the character’s traits.
A character may be motivated by

FEAR
GUILT
GREED
ANGER
REVENGE
SUCCESS
PEACE
LOVE
QUESTIONS to ask about characters

• How does the character feel?
• How do other characters feel about the character?
• What does the character do?
• What does the character say?
• What do other characters say about the character?
• How does the character change in the story?
Characters that CHANGE or not!

- **DYNAMIC CHARACTERS**—change throughout the story

- **STATIC CHARACTERS**—stay the same or do not change throughout the story
Relationships

You can tell a lot about a character by examining the character’s relationships in the story.

Types of relationships:

- between/among other characters
- with self
- with society
- with nature/environment
Just as we are changed by our experiences in real life, characters undergo changes in a story.

A character often changes as different events unfold, and these changes can affect the outcome of the story.
Types of Changes

- Intellectual
- Emotional
- Physical
- Change from beginning to end
- Change before an event and after an event in the plot
TAKS QUESTION TIPS:

• **MAKE SURE** you go back to the passage to find clues to accurately support your answer about characters.

• **WATCH OUT** for inaccurate/contradictory information.

• **WATCH OUT** for plausible statements that aren’t supported by information in the passage.
16. In paragraph 5, why does Angela forget what she is supposed to do first?

F. She has recently made a change to her program.
   *Plausible statement but not supported by passage*

G. She gets upset after she makes a mistake.
   *Contradicts information in the passage.*

H. She decides to try a jump she has never done before.
   *Contradicts information in the passage.*

J. She is nervous about competing in the championship.
   *Correct answer.*
TAKS STEM QUESTIONS

TRAITS
• In paragraph ___, what does it mean when the narrator says “____________”?
• In paragraph ___, _________________ was a little nervous (excited, sad, etc.) because he/she—

MOTIVATION
• In paragraph ___, why does _____________ do _________________?

CONFLICT
• ________________ is worried because –
• Why is _________________ distracted when ________________?
TAKS STEM QUESTIONS

POINT OF VIEW
• How does the narrator’s view change by the end of the selection?

RELATIONSHIPS
• From his/her actions toward _____________ provided in the story, the reader can conclude –

CHANGES
• How do ___________ and _____________’s attitudes differ at the beginning of the story?
• Which of these best describes _____________’s attitude at the end of the story?