

FIFTH GRADE CURRICULUM

WHAT ELA SKILL NEEDS MORE PRACTICE?



ANALYZE CHARACTERS: COMPARE AND CONTRAST CHARACTERS BY IDENTIFYING CHARACTER TRAITS, INCLUDING HOW CHARACTERS IN A STORY OR DRAMA INTERACT, AS WELL AS DRAWING CONCLUSIONS ABOUT CHARACTER MOTIVATIONS

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED TO DO?

Students need to be able to identify the traits in characters and how their similarities and differences can influence the events of the story. Identifying character traits can help students draw conclusions about what motivates their reactions and how it effects the plot of the story.

WHAT ARE CHARCTER TRAITS?

Character traits are the words used to describe aspects of a character's behavior, both good and bad. Character traits are often labeled with descriptive adjectives such as kind, patient, unfaithful, or jealous. The character's actions over the course of the entire story develops his personality.

HOW DO YOU FIGURE OUT CHARCTER TRAITS?

Character traits can be determined by looking at the words, thoughts, actions, and reactions of characters. Students can use the way characters' act, think, feel, and what they say. The actions of a character also provide insight into his personality and may be used to analyze the overall purpose of the character in the story being told.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS ABOUT CHARACTER MOTIVATION?

Think about the way a character responds to conflict, other characters, and extraordinary situations. Individual reactions to stressful or happy events may indicate elements of a character's personality that can help draw conclusions about why a character is reacting in that way. Think about the character's words when speaking and thinking. It might be angry or passive. Another way dialogue characterizes people is through what others say about or to the character. If the character always elicits angry or sympathetic responses from other characters, think about why she evokes these reactions. The thoughts of a character also indicate her reactions to her environment, how she processes events, and the meaning of key events in the story. Knowing a character's personality can help students understand why a character acts in a certain way and what motivates their behaviors.