

## ANALYZING CHARACTERS IN LITERATURE

1. What are the conflicts and their resolutions that may lead us to a better understanding of the character? What problems does he face? Resolutions?
2. How does your character relate to other characters in her story? That is, who do they think of him/her? What do they say? How do they act toward him/her? Look closely at these interactions to learn more about your character.
3. Is your character credible? Could he/she actually be a living, breathing human being? How does the author make the character seem so real?
4. How does the author describe your character, if, in fact, he actually gives description? What, then, is the author's opinion of the character? Pay attention to physical/behavioral characteristics given by the author.
5. How does your character act? Are his actions consistent with his speech? If not, what is significant about any inconsistencies? Is your character strong or weak?
6. What does the character say about himself, about his situation? What insight do we gain about the character from what he says about himself? How does the character present this information (a confidante, a soliloquy, dramatic monologue, dramatic dialogue, first-person narration)?
7. What is your reaction to this character? Are you sensitive to him and to his situation? Do you feel empathy toward him/her? Does he deserve what he "gets" in the story, or is his/her fate undeserved?
8. What method of character disclosure is used in the story you've chosen to discuss?
9. What other elements of fiction seem to be important in this story (e.g., point of view, setting, plot, style...)? Of course character is important in this story, but are there any other elements which deepen our understanding of character?
10. Does your character undergo a change (or changes)? Do we see, then, several sides to this character, or does he remain static? That is, what is his purpose in the static? Is there any significance in this? Is he/her simple or complex?
11. Is your character a major character in the story, or does he play a minor role? If minor, what does he "do" in the story? That is, what is his purpose in the story?
12. What is your character's CONSISTENT PRINCIPLE?
13. Does this character say anything to you personally? How do you relate to him/her?
14. What motivates your character to action? What has shaped him, his thoughts, his feelings, his philosophies?
15. What are the central incidents in the story that reveal primary characteristics of your character?