

# SMART™ Lesson

## Character Traits in Fiction

**Character traits** are the qualities that make up a fictional character's personality or behavior. Understanding character traits is important when analyzing and interpreting literature.

### Types of Character Traits

There are two types of character traits:

1. **Explicit traits:** these are traits that a character explicitly possesses, and the author makes them clear to the reader through descriptions, actions, or dialogue.
2. **Implicit traits:** these are traits that a character does not explicitly possess, but the reader can infer them based on the character's actions, behavior, and interactions with others.

### Examples of Character Traits

Here are some examples of character traits:

- **Kind:** a character who is considerate and sympathetic towards others.
- **Brave:** a character who faces danger or difficult situations with courage.
- **Vain:** a character who is excessively proud of his or her appearance or abilities.
- **Patient:** a character who is able to wait calmly for things to happen or for others to do things.
- **Honest:** a character who tells the truth and does not deceive others.

### Worksheet Questions

1. What is a character trait?
2. What is the difference between explicit and implicit traits?
3. Can you think of an example of an explicit character trait from a book you have read?
4. Can you think of an example of an implicit character trait from a book you have read?
5. List three character traits and describe how they can influence a character's decisions and actions in a story.