

SMART™ Lesson

Analyzing Character Traits in Early Literature

Introduction

Early literature is full of vibrant and memorable characters. Whether it's the heroic Odysseus in "The Odyssey" or the foolish knight Don Quixote in "Don Quixote," these characters stick with us because of the traits that make them unique.

What Are Character Traits?

Character traits are the individual qualities that make up a character's personality. These traits can be positive or negative, and can help to create a fully-formed and interesting character.

Examples of Character Traits

- **Courageous:** willing to face danger or discomfort in order to do what is right
- **Greedy:** having an excessive desire for wealth or possessions
- **Compassionate:** showing kindness and empathy towards others
- **Arrogant:** having an exaggerated sense of one's own importance or abilities
- **Loyal:** committed to standing by friends and loved ones, even in difficult times

Why Are Character Traits Important?

Character traits are an essential part of any story, as they help to create a memorable and interesting cast of characters. Understanding a character's traits can also help us as readers to better comprehend their actions and motivations throughout the narrative.

Practice Questions

1. What are character traits?
2. What are some examples of positive character traits?
3. What are some examples of negative character traits?
4. Why are character traits important in literature?

Reflection

Think about a character from a story or book that you have read. What are some of their character traits, and how do these traits inform your understanding of the character's actions and motivations throughout the narrative?

