

# SMART™ Lesson

## Literary Analysis: Characterization

Characterization is the way an author presents and describes the characters in a story. The characters can be described through their dialogue, their actions, their appearance, and their thoughts and feelings. There are two main types of characterization: direct and indirect.

### Direct Characterization

Direct characterization is when an author tells the reader directly about the character's traits. Examples of direct characterization include:

- She was tall and thin with long, curly hair.
- He always had a cheerful smile on his face.
- She was brave and always stood up for what was right.

These descriptions are directly telling the reader about the character's traits without any interpretation needed.

### Indirect Characterization

Indirect characterization is when an author reveals the character's traits through their actions, thoughts, and dialogue. Examples of indirect characterization include:

- He slammed the door shut and stomped up the stairs, showing his anger.
- She smiled at the old lady and helped her across the street, showing her kindness.
- He talked loudly and interrupted anyone who tried to speak, showing his rudeness.

These descriptions do not tell the reader the character's traits directly, but instead, the traits are shown through the character's actions and dialogue.

## Worksheet

Can you identify whether the following examples are direct or indirect characterizations?

1. She was smart, a quick learner who never missed anything.
2. He looked down at his shoes as he walked, avoiding eye contact with anyone.
3. She screamed and cried when she found out the news.
4. He always had a joke or a funny story to tell, making everyone laugh.

Answer Key:

1. Direct

2. Indirect
3. Indirect
4. Indirect

Now, let's practice writing our own examples of direct and indirect characterizations.

1. Write a direct characterization for a character who is brave.
2. Write an indirect characterization for a character who is mean.

Answer Key:

1. She stood up to the bully and defended her friend, showing her bravery.
2. He laughed at his friend when he fell off his bike, showing his meanness.

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