



Name: _____
Date: _____ Block: _____

Writing Academy: Characterization

An effective writer uses **direct** and **indirect characterization** to make the characters in their story come alive for the reader. Creating characters - telling what human beings are like - is one point of writing stories. A story is really only interesting to us as readers because of what it tells us about people and how it makes us feel about them.

Today you will practice creating characters when you write. Some ways to create indirect characterization can be through a character's speech, appearance, their private thoughts, how other characters feel about them, or through their actions.

Directions:

Revisit *The Odyssey's* "The Meeting of Father and Son" and "The Beggar and the Faithful Dog." Read the passages below and explain how each character's actions **indirectly** reflect their characterization.

1. "Eumaeus, here is one of your crew come back, or maybe another friend: the dogs are out there snuffling belly down; not one has even growled. I can hear footsteps -" (929).

What does Odysseus' reaction to hearing the noise outside tell you about his character? Explain.

2. "Just so the herdsman clapped his arms around Telemachus and covered him with kisses - for he knew the lad had got away from death" (929).

What does Eumaeus' reaction to Telemachus' return home to Ithaca tell you about his character and their relationship? Explain.

3. “But he knew he heard Odysseus’ voice nearby, he did his best to wag his tail, nose down, with flattened ears, having no strength to move nearer his master. And the man looked away, wiping a salt tear from his cheek; but he hid this from Eumaeus” (932).

What does Odysseus’ reaction to the dog indicate about Odysseus’ character? Explain.

Independent practice:

Choose one description from the list of direct characterizations and write an **indirect characterization** paragraph.

Direct characterization descriptions

The boy is absent-minded.	The dog is lazy.	The woman is generous.
The man is angry.	The boy is a class clown.	The girl is heartbroken.
The teenager is excited.	The woman is overwhelmed.	The man is hungry.
The cat is sleepy.	The night is cold.	The day is hot.

Example

Direct characterization description: The woman is overwhelmed.

Indirect characterization paragraph: Staggering through the front door, Carol schlepped her gym bag, purse, and rain soaked paper bags full of groceries onto the dry wooden floor. Bounding in afterwards, with sopping raincoats and galoshes, Carol’s two sons couldn’t keep their hands to themselves, slapping, pinching, and screaming at one another over a video game. Shaking her head in anguish, Carol marched to the kitchen to grumpily put away the vegetables and dry goods. When she was finally alone, she broke down, sobbing into her soaked sweater.

