

How to write a characterization

Before you can start writing your characterization, you need to do the following:

- study the text or relevant passage(s)
- highlight the passages that contain any information about your character; use the following grid as a guideline

	explanation
outward appearance	What does the character look like?
situation / position	What does the character like? What does he do? Where does he live?
speech, dialect	How does the character talk?
behaviour	How does the character behave?
feelings / attitudes	How does the character feel? What are his thoughts? What are his beliefs / opinions? Is it said explicitly or do you have to conclude it from his actions?
interaction with others	How does the character treat other characters?

- Draw a grid in which you insert your findings and your conclusions

quotes	conclusions

- Ask yourself the following questions:
 - Is he / she a main character (protagonist, hero/heroine) or a minor character?
 - Does the character remain stable in the process of the story or does he / she change?
 - Characters that change are called “round”, characters that do not change are called “flat”; consider that in your characterization
- Write your characterization.
- Do not just list the various features, but also show their interrelations.
- Support your statements by referring to the text. This can also be done indirectly: (c.f. line...)
- After finishing, check your language, content and completeness.

Writing the characterization:

Intro:

1. Start with your character's name and general statement about him or her. The opening paragraph should include a statement about why the character is important in the story. Use the present tense.

Andy, one of the main characters and the narrator's best friend in the story "Bread on the Water" by David Lubar, is a teenage boy.

Body:

2. In the middle of your profile, add details about the character. This information should support what you have said in your opening statement.

In church, Andy makes puns on the quotes from the Bible. This shows him to be a very clever boy with a good sense of humour. But the fact that he does not stop, even after he and Tommy are thrown out of the church indicates that ...

3. Back up every statement you make about your character with examples/quotes.

Andy is caring and tries to help the homeless man by buying him something to eat.

Conclusion:

4. Finish by restating your main claim about the character followed by a few concluding sentences. You can also include why or why not you like this character.

As we have seen, Andy is very generous and, although he misbehaves in church at the beginning of the story, he is the only one who...