

Chapters Seven and Eight

Standards Focus: Characterization

Characterization is the technique by which authors develop characters.

- **Direct characterization** is when the author or narrator *directly tells* the reader what the character is like. For example, “Jennifer is a good student.” The author wants us to know this detail about Jennifer, and does not give us the chance to guess about this aspect of her personality.
- **Indirect characterization** is when the author gives information about a character and *allows the reader to draw his or her own conclusions about that character*. Two of the ways we can learn about a character through **indirect characterization** are:

- Through the character’s own thoughts, feelings and actions— the reader witnesses what the character does or says, and learns something about the character from these thoughts, feelings, or actions. *For example, “On her way to class after lunch, Susan saw some trash on the ground that wasn’t hers. She decided to pick it up anyway, and threw it in the trash can.”*

The reader can make some assumptions about Susan from this excerpt: she cares about the environment, she takes pride in her school, she likes things neat and tidy, etc. All of these are appropriate assumptions based on Susan’s actions.

- Through interactions with other characters— the reader witnesses the interactions between characters, including how other characters treat or react to another character, and what they say do towards another character. *For example:*

“Maggie said, ‘Julie seems not to care about her school work anymore. It’s as if she is distracted or concerned about something. What do you think?’

‘I don’t know, but it is certainly unlike her to get bad grades,’ Kamesha replied.”

The reader can make assumptions about Julie from this conversation between Maggie and Kamesha. The reader can conclude that Julie used to work hard and get good grades in school, that she may be distracted about something, and that she is not behaving like her usual self.

Directions: Complete the chart on the next page with direct quotes (sentences copied directly from the book) of both direct and indirect characterization from Chapters 7-8. Two examples have been done for you.

Be careful!

- *The quotes you choose must teach you something about that character. Jotting down “Jem said, ‘Hey!’” does not teach us anything about Jem, or any other character for that matter.*
- *Taking direct quotes from the text does not necessarily mean you will be copying things that are found in quotation marks. Do not confuse dialogue with direct quotes. For example, since this story is in first person and Scout is our narrator, we get everything the author wants to say from Scout’s perspective. **What Scout thinks is NOT found in quotation marks. What she says TO the other characters IS in quotation marks. Remember, Direct Characterization will NOT be found enclosed in quotation marks in the novel.***

Jem				
	Page	Who Said It	Quote from Text	What you learn about the character
Direct Characterization		author/ narrator (Scout)		
Indirect Characterization				

Mr. Avery

	Page	Who Said It	Quote from Text	What you learn about the character
Direct Characterization		<i>author/narrator (Scout)</i>		
Indirect Characterization				

Miss Maudie

	Page	Who Said It	Quote from Text	What you learn about the character
Direct Characterization		<i>author/narrator (Scout)</i>		
Indirect Characterization				

Miss Stephanie

	Page	Who Said It	Quote from Text	What you learn about the character
Direct Characterization		<i>author/narrator (Scout)</i>		
Indirect Characterization				