

MINI LESSON



Character Traits

Objective: SW determine how to define character traits and their purpose.

Materials: A variety of children's books, novels, etc... that have well-defined characters, [character trait list](#), I.S.N.'s and pencils

"I do": TW read a short story or excerpt of his/her choice to the class. TW then explain that "when we talk about a character, we often describe that character in terms of **character traits**, descriptive adjectives like happy or sad that tell us the specific qualities of the character. They're the same kinds of words that we might use to describe ourselves or others, but we're using them to describe fictional characters in something we've read." TW begin with a bubble map and write the main character's name from the story they just read. As a class, they will brainstorm adjectives to describe that character. Next, TW draw a Tree Map and write the main character's name at the top. Together, they will write down three of the main character's actions as the three main "branches". Then, SW think of character traits to list under each action or "branch".

"We do": During mini lesson, SW take notes on character traits. TW pass out the [character trait list](#) to each student. In a small group or with partners, SW read a short story of their choice and will use the character trait list to create their own Tree map of actions and character traits.

"You do": SW write the actions and the character traits of the main character from the book they are reading. Students can create their own character and write a short story about them.

Extension: A variety of character trait activities can be used throughout the year as a review skill. ([Laura Candler's Character Trait mini pack](#))

Conferencing: TW work with small groups to practice Character traits.

