



Who Are They Really?

Characterization in The Outsiders



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Grade Level	8th Grade	Time Frame	2-3 class period(s)
Subject	English/Language Arts	Duration	115 minutes

Essential Question

How do characters come to life to the reader?

Summary

This lesson focuses on grade level standards that require students to identify examples of characterization as well as construct an argument. Students will identify examples of characterization in both film and text, then construct an argument on a character's personality based on the characterization. This lesson can be completed before starting *The Outsiders* or after reading Chapter 1.

Snapshot

Engage

Students complete a quick-write on characteristics of someone they admire.

Explore

Students identify examples of characterization from a short video.

Explain

Students are introduced to the "STEAL" method of identifying characterization in a text.

Extend

Students apply knowledge of the "STEAL" method to an excerpt from *The Outsiders*. ?

Evaluate

Students create a Claim-Evidence-Reasoning argument in groups regarding their chosen character's personality.

Attachments

- [CER-Notetaking-Who-Are-They-Really - Spanish.docx](#)
- [CER-Notetaking-Who-Are-They-Really - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [CER-Notetaking-Who-Are-They-Really.docx](#)
- [CER-Notetaking-Who-Are-They-Really.pdf](#)
- [Dally-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really - Spanish.docx](#)
- [Dally-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [Dally-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really.docx](#)
- [Dally-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really.pdf](#)
- [Darry-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really - Spanish.docx](#)
- [Darry-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [Darry-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really.docx](#)
- [Darry-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really.pdf](#)
- [Johnny-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really - Spanish.docx](#)
- [Johnny-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [Johnny-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really.docx](#)
- [Johnny-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really.pdf](#)
- [Lesson-Slides-Who-Are-They-Really.pptx](#)
- [Ponyboy-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really - Spanish.docx](#)
- [Ponyboy-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [Ponyboy-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really.docx](#)
- [Ponyboy-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really.pdf](#)
- [STEAL-Who-Are-They-Really - Spanish.docx](#)
- [STEAL-Who-Are-They-Really - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [STEAL-Who-Are-They-Really.docx](#)
- [STEAL-Who-Are-They-Really.pdf](#)
- [Sodapop-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really - Spanish.docx](#)
- [Sodapop-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [Sodapop-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really.docx](#)
- [Sodapop-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really.pdf](#)
- [Two-Bit-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really - Spanish.docx](#)
- [Two-Bit-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [Two-Bit-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really.docx](#)
- [Two-Bit-Character-Description-Who-Are-They-Really.pdf](#)

Materials

- *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton (one per student)
- Computer
- Projector & Speakers
- CER Notetaking (attached; one per student)
- STEAL (attached; one per student)
- Darry Character Description (attached; optional; one per student)
- Two Bit Character Description (attached; one per student in the group)
- Sodapop Character Description (attached; one per student in the group)
- Dally Character Description (attached; one per student in the group)
- Johnny Character Description (attached; one per student in the group)

Engage

As students enter the room, have **slide 3** projected in the front of the room. Ask the students to think about someone they admire. It could be a family member, a friend, an athlete, etc. Tell them to brainstorm words that could be used to describe that person and write down a list of those words on a blank sheet of paper.

Teacher's Note

Possible student responses could include: smart, respectable, well-dressed. Explain to students that the way they describe someone is the same as how an author describes a character.

Display **slide 4** and share the essential question with your students: How do characters come to life to the reader?

Display **slide 5** and share the lesson's learning objectives.

1. Students will be able to identify examples of characterization in both film and text.
2. Students will be able to construct an argument on a character's personality based on the characterization.

Explore

Have the students flip over their sheet of paper. Display **slide 6** and inform students that they are going to watch a video clip from a movie. As they watch the movie clip they should write down a description of the character(s) presented. Tell the students to use specific evidence. How do they know what they are describing? How is this shown in the video?

Teacher's Note

Here are three different video clip examples. Choose one that best suits your students.

Option 1: [Direct Characterization Mean Girls Edited](#) - Mean Girls - What kind of people are the "Plastics?" (**slide 7**)

Embedded video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhltB78o_kU

Option 3: [Almost There - Princess & the Frog](#) - What kind of person is Tiana? Or her mother, Eudora? (**slide 9**)

Teacher's Note

Each clip is very short, so whichever you choose, you may need to play it more than once.

Have students share their character description with an elbow partner. Once they have had an opportunity to discuss their descriptions, ask a few to share out what they have. What evidence was in the video to support this description?

15 minutes

Explain

Display **slide 10** and inform students that characterization is the process by which the writer reveals the personality of a character.

Display **slide 11** and tell your students that the STEAL mnemonic device can help identify the five elements of characterization. The elements of STEAL are Speech, Thoughts, Effects on others, Actions, and Looks. Tell your students that for each element of STEAL, they will look at their character descriptions from the movie clips and determine if that element was present. As you review each part of STEAL you may need to replay the movie clip for students. Do this as needed throughout the next few slides.

Speech (slide 12)- The words a person speaks can say a lot about them. When they speak to other characters, look at what they say and how they say it.

Thoughts (slide 13)- What is revealed through the character's private thoughts and feelings? Consider what a character thinks, believes, or values, along with what motivates a character.

Effects on others (slide 14)- This element focuses on the relationships the character has with others and how characters treat each other. How do other characters feel or behave in reaction to the character?

Actions (slide 15)- What does the character do? How does the character behave, including how they react to people and events?

Looks (slide 16)- How is the character's physical appearance described? This includes, physical features, clothing, body language, etc.

Next, ask students to apply STEAL to their original person from Engage activity. Did their initial notes have some of those same elements?

Extend

Distribute the attached **STEAL** handout.

Display the character description for Darry using a projector or computer display and model finding examples of characterization in the text. Align these examples with components of STEAL.

Teacher's Note

The excerpt for Darry is long so consider beginning with just the first paragraph. If you find your students need additional support, you may want to continue into the next paragraph.

Display **slide 17** and put students in small groups of 2 or 3. Give each group one character to examine (Johnny, Sodapop, Two Bit, and Dally). Pass out the accompanying **Character Description attachments** for each assigned character. Instruct them to find at least four examples of characterization for an assigned character from *The Outsiders* and identify which component of STEAL each one meets.

Evaluate

Display **slide 18** to introduce the class to the [Claim, Evidence, Reasoning \(CER\) strategy](#). Distribute the attached **CER Notetaking** handout (see attachments) and ask each group to create a claim regarding the character they examined in the Extend section. Distribute copies of the text to each student and inform them that based on the characterization in chapter 1 of *The Outsiders*, they should describe the selected character.

Teacher's Note

Tell students to use the entirety of chapter 1, not just the character excerpt sheet from the Extend activity.

Ask them to record evidence they found that supports their claim in the "Evidence" section of the CER Notetaking Handout. They can use the "Reasoning" section to take notes for how the evidence they found supports their claim.

Once your students have completed the CER Notetaking, display **slide 19** and have them write a three to four sentence paragraph that supports their claim, based on the evidence and reasoning notes. This can be completed on the back of their handout or on a separate sheet of paper.

Resources

- Baldwin, K., & Birdseye, D. (2013). Characterization and S.T.E.A.L.
- Drakenliger (Adapter). (2009, October 27). Captain Jack Sparrow's Intro [Video file]. <https://youtu.be/R7m5Int1hAAhttps://www.dvusd.org/cms/lib/AZ01901092/Centricity/Domain/3001/STEAL%20Graphic%20Organizer.pdf>
- Hinton, S. E. (2006). The Outsiders. Penguin Classics.
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning (CER). Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/d9908066f654727934df7bf4f506fc09>
- Kmalec1 (Adapter). (2013, October 27). Direct Characterization Mean Girls Edited [Video file]. https://youtu.be/JhltB78o_kU
- National Council of Teachers of English. (2004). Defining Characterization. http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson800/Characterization.pdf
- PATFvids (Adapter). (2010, June 25). Almost There - Princess and the Frog [Video file]. <https://youtu.be/irEBOfv4Ug4>