# <u>Project #2 – Character Traits</u>

**For our second project, you will be <u>reading a book</u> and then <u>writing about the main character's personality traits.</u>**

**BOOK CHOSEN BY:** _____

**PROJECT DUE DATE:** _____

- First, choose a "just-right" book (Realistic, Historical, or Fantasy Fiction)
- You will have 2 ½ weeks to read it, take notes, and write your response
- Write a two - three paragraph reading response stating the importance of the main character and describing the character's personality traits.

## Reasons a character is important in the story <u>might</u> include:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Change/Growth** | Character learns something or changes throughout the story |
| **Accomplishment** | Character overcomes challenges and succeeds |
| **Cause/Effect** | Character causes important events or influences other characters |

## Ways to reveal a character's personality traits:

| | |
|---|---|
| Actions | **What does the character do/say?** |
| Motives | **Why is the character behaving in a certain way? What is "behind" their actions?** |
| Reactions | **How does the character handle situations/conflicts that happen?** |

- ## READING RESPONSE BREAKDOWN

| | |
|---|---|
| **Paragraph ONE** | \* Title, author, introduces main character <br> \*Shows how main character is important in the story |
| **Paragraph Two** | Topic sentence describing three character traits. <br> THREE EXAMPLES FROM THE STORY THAT PROVE YOUR CHOICES! |
| **Paragraph Three** (optional for exceeding) | Write a paragraph describing how the main character is viewed by other characters in the story (what traits they think the main character has and why). <br> You can choose all three traits viewed by the same character, or can tell about 2-3 different characters. <br> \*In order to receive exceeding, your three viewpoints MUST have examples from the book) |

# MY READING SCHEDULE

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ PROJECT DUE! | | | |

## Character Analysis Rubric

| | Meeting | Approaching | Beginning |
|---|---|---|---|
| o Paragraph #1 | o Names title, author, and introduces main character<br>o Insightful explanation of the character's importance to the story | o Missing one of the following (title, author, or introduces main character)<br>o Limited explanation of the character's importance to the story | o Few introductory paragraph elements included<br>o No explanation of the character's importance to the story |
| o Paragraph #2 | o Topic sentence with three traits included<br>o Clear or effective examples of the character's traits with page numbers are included | o Attempt at topic sentence with traits included<br>o Some examples of the character's traits are included<br>o Examples may not be clearly stated/page numbers may not be included | o No topic sentence<br>o Limited examples of the character's traits are included<br>Or<br>  o Incorrect interpretation of character's traits |
| Conventions | o Some errors may be present in grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation, errors may interfere with meaning. | o Sentences may be awkward or fragmented.<br>Many errors may be present in grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation. | o Many sentences are awkward and fragmented. Many errors may be present and interfere with meaning. |

| Exceeding Option | To score Exceeding, you have everything above and your 3rd paragraph has |
|---|---|
| Add a Third Paragraph that will<br>o Describe your character's personality traits from the point of view of another character or characters.<br>o Cite examples from the text to support character traits. | o Topic sentence with two character traits (from another character's view) included<br>o Two or more points of view with examples are included, showing different traits of the main character (with page numbers) |

# Character Analysis

By: Linnea Hummel

In Phyllis Reynolds Naylor's story, <u>Shiloh</u>, Marty is one of the main characters. Marty is important to the story because when he first finds Shiloh, there is an instant bond between the two of them and creates a strong relationship. But when Marty discovers that Shiloh's owner, Judd Travers, abuses beagles to make them hunt, it immediately makes Marty want to keep Shiloh forever. After Marty learns about Shiloh's difficult life, all Marty wants to do is help the dog out.

Marty is caring, willing, afraid, unreliable, and determined. Marty is a caring person because he wants Shiloh to have a good life and a good home. To do that, he made a pen for Shiloh and gave him food and water. Marty is also willing because he wants to do whatever it takes to keep Shiloh as a pet, and even wants to save up money to pay for all his needs. However, Marty is afraid because if Judd takes Shiloh back, he'll continue to treat the dog cruelly. So Marty is unreliable to Judd and lies to him that he doesn't have Shiloh, even after he made a promise to him. At the same time Marty is also reliable, because he made a promise to Shiloh, and I know he isn't going to break it. Marty becomes determined to rescue Shiloh and save him from his terrible life.

I think that Shiloh "believes" that Marty is trustworthy towards him because Marty made a promise to Shiloh that "Judd Travers isn't never going to kick you again." (page 42). I also think that Mr. Wallace (the store manager) surprisingly thinks that Marty and his family are poor because when Marty asked to buy cheap food from him, for Shiloh's dinner, Mr. Wallace then assumed that Marty's family was having hard times. As a result, Mr. Wallace told the other neighbors this, and during Marty's dad's mail delivery, he found all kinds of food in the mailboxes for them.

Percy Jackson in The Lighting Thief by Rick Riordon is a very heroic, smart, and protective character ~~in the story.~~ HEROISM

One of his traits ~~was~~ heroic IS. The first example of how he is heroic that he completes a very complicated and challenging quest. ~~The second example is that~~ he saves the lightning bolt. This is important because if he did not return the lightning bolt, Zeus and Poseidon would have started a long and terrible war that would effect the entire human race. The last reason he is heroic is because he kills Ares who is the person who ~~made~~ STARTED all the bad rumors about Percy and his father, Poseidon.

The second trait he carries is smart. POSSESSES THAT HE The first example of how he is smart is he knows when to use water to save him. ~~The second example of how he is smart is that~~ when he falls off of the tall building he knows that he should fall into the water so that he can survive. ~~The last example of how he is smart is that when~~ FINALLY he is fighting Ares, he goes into the water to heal himself and at the same time gain more power to fight with.

~~The last trait that he carries is~~ PERCY IS ALSO protective. The first example of how he is protective is that he saves his friends throughout the story. The second example of how he is protective is that he saves Grover when he may be about to die after the monster had attacked them. The last example of how he is protective is that he saves his friends from the underworld so that they do not die.

In conclusion, Percy Jackson is a heroic, smart, and protective.

# Percy's Character Traits by Aiden Marcelis

Percy Jackson in The Lighting Thief by Rick Riordon is a very heroic, smart, and protective character.

One of his traits was heroism. The first example of how he is heroic is that he completes a very complicated and challenging quest, he saves the lightning bolt. This is important because if he did not return the lightning bolt, Zeus and Poseidon would have started a long and terrible war that would effect the entire human race. The last reason he is heroic is because he kills Ares who is the person who started all the bad rumors about Percy and his father, Poseidon.

The second trait he possesses is that he is smart. The first example of how he is smart is he knows when to use water to save him. When he falls off of the tall building he knows that he should fall into the water so that he can survive. Finally, when he is fighting Ares he goes into the water to heal himself and at the same time gain more power to fight with.

Percy is also protective. The first example of how he is protective is that he saves his friends throughout the story. The second example of how he is protective is that he saves Grover when he may be about to die after the monster has attacked them. The last example of how he is protective is that he saves his friends from the underworld so that they do not die.

In conclusion, Percy Jackson is a heroic, smart, and protective.

# Sample Character Traits

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| able | demanding | hopeless | restless |
| active | dependable | humorous | rich |
| adventurous | depressed | ignorant | rough |
| affectionate | determined | imaginative | rowdy |
| afraid | discouraged | impatient | rude |
| alert | dishonest | impolite | sad |
| ambitious | disrespectful | inconsiderate | safe |
| angry | doubtful | independent | satisfied |
| annoyed | dull | industrious | scared |
| anxious | dutiful | innocent | secretive |
| apologetic | eager | intelligent | selfish |
| arrogant | easygoing | jealous | serious |
| attentive | efficient | kindly | sharp |
| average | embarrassed | lazy | short |
| bad | encouraging | leader | shy |
| blue | energetic | lively | silly |
| bold | evil | lonely | skillful |
| bored | excited | loving | sly |
| bossy | expert | loyal | smart |
| brainy | fair | lucky | sneaky |
| brave | faithful | mature | sorry |
| bright | fearless | mean | spoiled |
| brilliant | fierce | messy | stingy |
| busy | foolish | miserable | strange |
| calm | fortunate | mysterious | strict |
| careful | foul | naughty | stubborn |
| careless | fresh | nervous | sweet |
| cautious | friendly | nice | talented |
| charming | frustrated | noisy | tall |
| cheerful | funny | obedient | thankful |
| childish | gentle | obnoxious | thoughtful |
| clever | giving | old | thoughtless |
| clumsy | glamorous | peaceful | tired |
| coarse | gloomy | picky | tolerant |
| concerned | good | pleasant | touchy |
| confident | graceful | polite | trusting |
| confused | grateful | poor | trustworthy |
| considerate | greedy | popular | unfriendly |
| cooperative | grouchy | positive | unhappy |
| courageous | grumpy | precise | upset |
| cowardly | guilty | proper | useful |
| cross | happy | proud | warm |
| cruel | harsh | quick | weak |
| curious | hateful | quiet | wicked |
| dangerous | healthy | rational | wise |
| daring | helpful | reliable | worried |
| dark | honest | religious | wrong |
| decisive | hopeful | responsible | young |

Character Trait
and Evidence Analysis

Name/s____

Character

Note collection
for Paragraph 3

# OPTIONAL
## Character Sociogram

Name/s _____

How do other characters
view the main
character?

Ex: _____ (minor character)
Thinks that _____ (main char)
is _____
because _____

Character

Character

Character

Character

Character

Character

Character

In the book <u>Sweet Valley Twins, Jessica and the Brat Attack</u> written by Francine Pascal, Jessica Wakefield is the main character. Jessica is important to the story because she has taken her twin sister's baby-sitting job {behind her back} and her plan to make money ends up backfiring. The children that Jessica were so excited to meet, and in her head were complete angels, ended up being real devils the very second their mom left the house. Jessica is faced with a dilemma that leaves the reader wondering, "will she call her sister for advice and risk her sister being angry with her, or try to figure out how to control the uncontrollable children?".

Jessica was **sneaky**, and **selfish** in the beginning of the story, but as the book unfolded, she became **humbled** by her sister's acts. Jessica is sneaky because in the text it says, " 'I knew how badly you wanted to go to the fair on Saturday and how hard it was going to be for you baby-sitting all day when everyone else was at the park having a great time, so I took your job'. Elizabeth stared at her. 'You what!'" This proves Jessica was sneaky, because she hid the baby-sitting job, instead of telling Elizabeth. Jessica's motive for being sneaky was because she didn't want to work at the fair with her bad job of working the water balloon toss. Jessica is also selfish because in the text it says, "There were a lot of things Jessica could do with seventy dollars...Elizabeth didn't need the money half as much as she did." This proves Jessica is selfish because she only thought of her needs, not her sister's needs. Jessica's reaction to the badly behaved children was also selfish because instead of trying to resolve the problem with the children, she desperately called her sister, {who she betrayed} for help. Another character trait about Jessica is she becomes humble towards the end of the story by her sister's actions. In the text it says, "Elizabeth cut her off. Realizing Jessica wasn't kidding and really was in trouble, she decided it was time for her to help. 'Have you tried being strict with them?' 'I tried everything,' Jessica cried." This proves Jessica felt her decision to steal the job was wrong and she now has an appreciation of how hard babysitting actually is. To be humble is to realize that you are not the best at something and to realize that you have to respect other people's abilities.
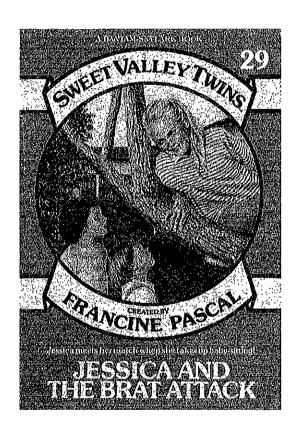
Elizabeth, Jessica's sister, thinks Jessica is **disrespectful**. I know this because in the text it says, "Elizabeth stared at her. 'You what?" This proves that she couldn't believe that Jessica went behind her back to steal her babysitting job, which is something a **disrespectful** person would do. Jessica didn't value her sister enough to ask her permission if she could baby-sit her clients. This proves she had no respect for her sister in this situation. Jessica was able to resolve this situation by admitting she was wrong, so her sister didn't think she was disrespectful any more. Jessica's sister, Elizabeth, forgave her. I believe this lesson of forgiveness motivated Elizabeth to respect her sister very much. The lesson that they both learned is to respect each other and ask for each other's advice. Being dishonest and disrespectful never has a good ending, they learned. Another character trait that Elizabeth thinks of Jessica is she is popular in school. I know this because in the text it says, "Jessica loved being the center of attention... She was also a member of the Unicorn Club. A group made of the most **popular** girls in the grade." This proves that Elizabeth believes Jessica is popular since she says, "She is in a group made of the most popular girls in the grade." I think being popular made Jessica a little insensitive because she didn't think of her sister's feelings in the beginning of the story. Sometimes when you are popular and the center of attention, you

forget about other's feelings. I think the author wanted to portray Jessica as popular to show that this trait made her insensitive in the beginning of the story. However, being popular does not have to be negative, it should be positive because it means you are well-liked.

In conclusion, this story was an excellent example of how a character can change and grow throughout a story. In the beginning of the story, Jessica was selfish, and sneaky, but by the end of the story, she became humble and respectful. I learned to love Jessica by the end!

*(P) Conclusion*

# Sample Character Traits

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| able | demanding | hopeless | restless |
| active | dependable | humorous | rich |
| adventurous | depressed | ignorant | rough |
| affectionate | determined | imaginative | rowdy |
| afraid | discouraged | impatient | rude |
| alert | dishonest | impolite | sad |
| ambitious | disrespectful | inconsiderate | safe |
| angry | doubtful | independent | satisfied |
| annoyed | dull | industrious | scared |
| anxious | dutiful | innocent | secretive |
| apologetic | eager | intelligent | selfish |
| arrogant | easygoing | jealous | serious |
| attentive | efficient | kindly | sharp |
| average | embarrassed | lazy | short |
| bad | encouraging | leader | shy |
| blue | energetic | lively | silly |
| bold | evil | lonely | skillful |
| bored | excited | loving | sly |
| bossy | expert | loyal | smart |
| brainy | fair | lucky | sneaky |
| brave | faithful | mature | sorry |
| bright | fearless | mean | spoiled |
| brilliant | fierce | messy | stingy |
| busy | foolish | miserable | strange |
| calm | fortunate | mysterious | strict |
| careful | foul | naughty | stubborn |
| careless | fresh | nervous | sweet |
| cautious | friendly | nice | talented |
| charming | frustrated | noisy | tall |
| cheerful | funny | obedient | thankful |
| childish | gentle | obnoxious | thoughtful |
| clever | giving | old | thoughtless |
| clumsy | glamorous | peaceful | tired |
| coarse | gloomy | picky | tolerant |
| concerned | good | pleasant | touchy |
| confident | graceful | polite | trusting |
| confused | grateful | poor | trustworthy |
| considerate | greedy | popular | unfriendly |
| cooperative | grouchy | positive | unhappy |
| courageous | grumpy | precise | upset |
| cowardly | guilty | proper | useful |
| cross | happy | proud | warm |
| cruel | harsh | quick | weak |
| curious | hateful | quiet | wicked |
| dangerous | healthy | rational | wise |
| daring | helpful | reliable | worried |
| dark | honest | religious | wrong |
| decisive | hopeful | responsible | young |

Student's Name: _____

Title of Text: _____

# HOW AND WHY CHARACTERS CHANGE

Character's Name: _____     Author: _____

Directions: Provide evidence from the story to support your conclusions.

At the Beginning...

At the End...

How the Character Changed

Why the Character Changed