

QUALITIES OF A CHARACTER

Directions: Circle the words below that describe a character in a story you have just read. Use the most appropriate ones in your character analysis. Look up any word you don't know.

Mental Qualities		Moral Qualities	
intelligent	unintelligent	moral	immoral
educated	unschooled	kind	cruel
smart	dumb	considerate	inconsiderate
wise	ignorant	idealistic	unprincipled
gifted	simple	innocent	corrupt
clever	puerile	righteous	vile
ingenious	obtuse	upstanding	deceitful
brilliant	vacuous	truthful	lying
learned	narrow-minded	honest	unscrupulous
scholarly	shallow	honorable	dishonorable
astute	dull	loyal	untrustworthy
competent	incompetent	helpful	self-centered
sensible	unreasonable	virtuous	dissolute
talented	incapable	pure	vulgar
intellectual	bigoted	puritanical	degenerate
precocious	witless	austere	sensual
rational	irrational	polite	insulting
perceptive	cunning	respectable	base

Physical Qualities		Social Qualities	
strong	weak	cooperative	contentious
healthy	sickly	hospitable	inhospitable
handsome	hideous	congenial	impolite
beautiful	ugly	cheerful	sullen
pretty	graceless	supportive	antagonistic
cute	emaciated	urbane	boorish
robust	clumsy	worldly	provincial
hardy	awkward	debonair	brusque
dainty	grotesque	suave	obsequious
delicate	odious	elegant	unpolished
charming	coarse	courteous	petulant
ravishing	repulsive	tactful	crude
adroit	ungainly	cordial	crabby
skillful	unkempt	convivial	critical
lively	decrepit	encouraging	caustic
robust	frail	merry	grumpy

UNDERSTANDING CHARACTER

PART ONE: Where the questions below say *Character*, substitute the name of a character assigned from your reading.

1. In a contest sponsored by a commercial company, *Character* has won \$100,000. Describe what *Character* will do with the money.
2. *Character* is looking for true love. What qualities will *Character* look for in the ideal mate? What characteristics make a person the perfect partner? How do you know?
3. *Character* wants to buy a new house. What type of home will *Character* buy? How much will it cost? Where will it be located? What kind of landscaping will it have?
4. You offer to give *Character* a ticket to any type of sporting event *Character* would enjoy seeing. What type of sporting event would *Character* choose? Why?
5. You are the director of a movie based upon the literary work which you have just read. Whom will you cast in the role of *Character*? Why?
6. *Character* has just entered a restaurant that serves every type of food in the world. The waiter asks *Character*, "What would you like to order this evening?" *Character* replies: "....." Explain the choice.
7. You are giving a costume party. What costume will *Character* choose to wear to your party? Explain why *Character* would choose this particular outfit.
8. You have just invented a time machine and you offer *Character* the opportunity to travel anywhere "anywhen." What choice will *Character* make? Why? Explain.
9. Oh, no! *Character* has just been presented with an arrest warrant. Whatever for? Describe the crime *Character* has committed, and how *Character* will react to the police.
10. Ho! Ho! Ho! You drew *Character's* name for the traditional Christmas gift exchange. Your selected gift must be an abstract quality -- not a fast car, not a fancy stereo, not jewelry, not an exotic vacation -- only the intangible. What will you give *Character* and why? Explain.
11. As an experienced garbage collector, you have learned that garbage is a good indication of someone's personality, their likes and dislikes. Describe the types of garbage you are likely to find at *Character's* house, and what that garbage reveals about *Character*.
12. Boo hoo. *Character* is dead and buried, but not forgotten. What kind of funeral or other service would *Character* want? What epitaph on what style tombstone? Where, how, what manner should mark *Character's* passing? Explain.
13. Safely buried? Dead and gone? Not quite. Moments later *Character* awakened wearing a strange new persona. Yes, *Character* has been reincarnated! Who is *Character* this time around. Explain.

PART TWO: SYNECTICS make the familiar strange and the strange familiar. Answer impossible questions by choosing from unrelated answers -- answers which may be logically related somehow -- and yet, there is no single correct answer. Ah, metaphor!

Think carefully about the questions below, make a choice, and then explain your reasons for choosing as you have. It is your explanation which proves your answer “right” or “wrong.” Answer these questions about your assigned character. Restate the question as part of your answer.

Is *Character* more like:

1. May or December?
2. A Jeep, a Corvette, a Saturn, or a Mercedes Benz?
3. Brown or blue?
4. The letter *A*, the letter *M*, or the letter *Z*?
5. Vanilla ice cream or charlotte russe?
6. New York, San Francisco, Salt Lake City, or New Orleans?
7. A hammer or a nail?
8. White, rye, or pumpernickel bread?
9. A short story, a poem, an essay, or a play?
10. Soap or dirt?
11. Fire, water, earth, or air?
12. A cathedral, a pup tent, or a log cabin?
13. A filing cabinet, a garbage pail, a wood lathe, or a kitchen stove?
14. A lock or a key?
15. The comics, the sports section, the business report, or the editorial page?
16. A snowstorm or a rainy day?
17. A horse show, a hockey match, or a track-and-field event?
18. A forest fire or a mountain stream?
19. A TV game show, a soap opera, a situation comedy, or a drama?
20. Science fiction, mystery, romance, or horror?