# Lesson 5: Characterization



Name Date

The unfolding of the personality of a character in a story is called **characterization**. When the author tells us something about a character, it is called **direct characterization**.

When we learn about characters from their words and actions, or the words and actions of other characters, it is called **indirect characterization**.

##### DIRECTIONS: Read the following passage about a girl named Sophia and her first morning at summer camp. As you read, underline sections that help you get to know Sophia’s personality. Then answer the questions below.

* 1. Sophia and her best friend Kelly had stayed up late into the night chattering away about the fun they were going to have. They’d swim in the lake, eat hot dogs until their stomachs might explode, toast marshmallows by a campfire, and sleep until noon under mosquito netting. So when Sophia heard the shrill sound of that horrible whistle, she thought she surely must be having a nightmare.
  2. “Kelly, I’m having a bad dream. Could you get me a glass of water?” Sophia managed to squeak out before she lifted her head off her pillow and saw the pink streaks in the sky. The realization slowly hit her that this was no dream, but it certainly was a nightmare. Adrienne, the cabin counselor, had said they’d rise early. For Sophia, that meant by lunchtime! But there Adrienne stood, hands on her hips, with that whistle dangling around her neck like an orb of power. Slowly, it dawned on Sophia that Adrienne intended for her to get out of bed!
  3. “Adrienne, you can’t be serious,” Sophia protested. She began to tremble with irritation at the fact that she’d probably have to comply. She hated following orders. Stubbornly snuggling deep into her sleeping bag, Sophia was drifting back off when that whistle shrilled again.

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* 1. Through the thickness of her pillow, Sophia just made out Adrienne’s muffled announcement. “Make sure you go to the pump on your way out to fill your water bottle. It’s a two mile hike to the site we chose for the opening-day breakfast ceremony, and I don’t want any of you to get dehydrated on the way.”
  2. Sophia peeped out of her bag to see Kelly squirming into her hiking boots and digging through her things for her water bottle. “Traitor,” she said. Kelly looked up, laughed, and threw Sophia her shorts.
  3. “Better hurry or Adrienne will be after you with her whistle,” Kelly called as she headed out the door of the cabin. Reluctantly, Sophia got dressed and grabbed her own water bottle. “The only thing worse than waking up so early in the morning would be to wake up and find everyone out having fun without me!” she mumbled as she followed Kelly out the door.

1. Find one example of direct characterization that the author uses to help the reader get to know Sophia. Identify the example and tell what the author reveals about Sophia.



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1. Look for two sections in which the author reveals aspects of Sophia’s character to the reader through indirect characterization. Identify these two sections in the space below and explain what each example tells about Sophia.
2. Which character’s personality do we have the best understanding of at the end of the passage? Explain your answer.

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**For more information on characterization, see**



***Glencoe Literature, Course 2,* pp. 406 and R2.**

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# Lesson 6: Figurative Language



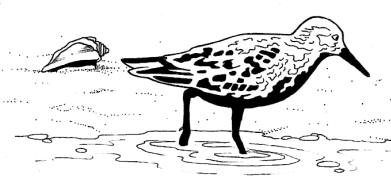
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Often, writers use language that communicates ideas beyond the literal meanings of words. One way writers convey meaning is through **figures of speech**—language that compares one thing to something that is familiar.

* + A **simile** compares two things using the words *than*, *like*, or *as*. The phrase *the sky was soft as velvet* is a simile.
  + **Personification** refers to a comparison in which an animal, object, or idea is given a human quality. The phrases *the trees waved their arms* and *the wind screamed* are examples of personification.

##### DIRECTIONS: Read the following poem by Victoria Adler, paying special attention to the language that the poet uses. Underline sections that include similes or personification.

***Then answer the questions that follow.***



**If You Only Knew**

1 Sandpiper strutting on the seam of the sea forever in motion

you think you own the whole wide ocean,

5 the sand and the clouds.

How proud, how proud

are your soldier’s steps and your self-sure nod.

Sandpiper strutting on the edge of the blue if you only knew

10 that a vast world lies outside of you above and beyond your tiny eyes.

You think you’re tall

15 but you’re small, so small— as small as a shell,

as brief as the foam of a wave’s soft swell.

1. Look at the first stanza. How does the author depict the sandpiper in this stanza? Describe the sandpiper in a few sentences, referring to phrases in the poem that help shape your impression.



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1. Identify an example of personification in the first stanza. Explain this comparison and the poet’s point in making it.
2. In the last four lines of the poem, the poet tells the sandpiper that it is small. What does the poet mean by this? Explain.

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