

Create a Character

Concept to Teach

Creating a believable character is part of writing a good narrative. Students will see how important it is to make each character distinct and different, with a clear impression of that character's uniqueness. This lesson will help students understand how to create a character.

Grades: 3+
Time: Two class periods

Objectives

- Students will recognize character traits and relationships among characters
- Students will recognize changes in traits and relationships as the book progresses
- Students will create a character as one feature of expressive writing.
- Students will respond to literature in various formats and genres by creating a character of their own

Materials

- Copies of ***Character Profile Worksheet***
- Good story to read, copies of reproducible, pencils or markers
- Choose one Jake Maddox or SI Kids book from the following titles:

List of titles

Battle for Home Plate
Full Court Pressure
Kickoff Blitz
Point-Blank Paintball
Reality Check
Skateboard Sonar
Off the Bench
On Guard
Playing Forward
Win or Lose
Pit Crew Crunch
Race Car Rival
Speed Camp
Stock Car Sabotage
Disc Golf Drive
Pitcher Pressure
Record Run
Tennis Liar
Ballet Bullies
Field Hockey Firsts
Half-Pipe Prize

Procedure

Preparation

- 1) Make 2 copies of the **Character Profile Worksheet** for each student.
- 2) Make 1 copy of the **Vocabulary Sheet** for each student.
- 3) Make 1 copy of the **Create Your Character**.

Direct Instruction

- 4) Instruct the students to look at the cover and title of the Jake Maddox or SI Kids book. What does the cover tell us about the main character, if anything?
- 5) Review the questions on the **Character Profile Worksheet**.
- 6) Have the students read the book with the **Character Profile Worksheet** in mind, filling in as they read.
- 7) Review or correct the **Character Profile Worksheet** to ensure the student understands the details needed in creating a character.
- 8) Ask the student to create their own character by using the **Create Your Character**.

Vocabulary

- Review the vocabulary on the **Vocabulary Sheet** prior to assigning the **Character Profile Worksheet**.

Activity

- Students will create a character of their own by filling in **Create your Character** worksheet.

Assessment/Partner Review

- Students use their second **Character Profile Worksheet** to review the character that a partner has created.

Extended Learning Activities

- Students can add their character to the Jake Maddox or SI Kids story and write an alternative ending.
- Students can draw an illustration of the character they have created.
- Students create other characters that relate to the first character they created.

Character Profile Worksheet

Physical Appearance	Character's Role
Name of Character	
Character's Problems	Major Accomplishments

Vocabulary Words

Name/Title: A word or a combination of words by which a person is called, or known. Does the character have a title? Is he called Señor Johnson by his friends?

Physical Appearance: What a person looks like. Height, weight, race, eye color, hair color, glasses or contact lenses, skin color, shape of face, distinguishing features, how she/he dresses, mannerisms, habit, health.

Character's Role: The position, function, characteristics, and expected behavior of a person. Where does your character live? What talents or skills does your character have? Is he/she the oldest, youngest, or middle child? How many brothers and sisters does your character have? Does your character have grandparents? Describe the relationship he/she has with them.

Character Problems/Challenges: A situation, matter, or person that presents difficulty.

Major Accomplishments: Something completed successfully; an achievement. An acquired skill or expertise.

Create Your Character

Name _____

Date _____

Name & age of your character:

What are his/her favorites and least favorites and why?

	Favorite	Least Favorite	Why?
Food			
Relative			
Famous Person			
Hobby/leisure activity			
Sport			
People			
Book			
School Subject			
Type of Clothes			

Where does this person live? (city, country, ranch, apartment building, castle, villa, boarding house, homeless, army camp, jungle, near an ocean, plantation)

How many brothers/sisters does he have? Who does he live with?

What is the one thing your character wants more than anything else? Why? What has he/she already done to try to obtain it? What will he/she try in the future?

When he/she was little, what was the most important thing that happened to your character?

What was his/her favorite toy?

What is this person's most irritating habit? Why?

What is unique about him/her?

What are his/her secrets?

What are his/her dreams?

Who is your character's enemy?