

Literary Elements: Character

Skills Reviewed and Maintained

- **Comprehension**
Drawing conclusions
Making predictions
- **Writing**
Character sketch

Teach

- Ask students to imagine they're meeting a new teacher; make them write a poem about the new teacher.
- Invite students to read the text.
- Ask the students complete the exercise; check to be sure they use details as clues to character traits.

Practice

Introducing Vocabulary

- Before students read the story, introduce the vocabulary words. Use the words in questions and have students answer.

Reading the passage

- Have students look at the title, illustration and format of this passage. Discuss what can be inferred about the characters from the preview.

Checking Comprehension

- Make sure students base their conclusions on story details as well as their own experience. Have them identify specific details that support their conclusions.
- Ask students to think about the characters' words and actions as they predict the future relationships, etc. remind them that predictions should be based on story details.

Practicing Comprehension Skills

- Remind students that authors have several ways of revealing character traits.

Practicing Vocabulary

- Investigate the vocabulary words and discuss them with the students.

Apply

Making the Reading and Writing Connection

- Have partners read their character sketches to each other.

ESL Strategy

- Have students choose one-character trait to describe them. Have them illustrate the trait by drawing a scene from the story. They can write a caption that describes how the scene exemplifies that character trait.

Multiple Intelligences: Verbal-linguistic, Bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal

- Have small groups create dramatic scenes involving the characters from the story. Have groups write, rehearse and present their skits to the class.

Home- School Connection

- Have students think of someone their family knows, such as a neighbor or a relative. Students can write a brief description of the person's character.

