



## **What Makes a Character a Character?**

### **Introduction**

In this activity students will recognize the traits of the characters from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Using a graphic organizer, students will compare and contrast the characters .

### **Ohio Learning Outcomes**

#### **Reading Process: Concepts of Print, Comprehension Strategies and Self-Monitoring Strategies**

6 – Create and use graphic organizers, such as Venn diagrams and webs to demonstrate comprehension.

#### **Reading Application: Literary Text**

2 – Use concrete details from the text to describe characters and setting.

### **Getting Started**

#### **Materials**

- Overhead projector
- Pen
- *Handout A* - Graphic Organizer

### **Technology**

Use the software program *Inspiration* to make character webs or use the character template to explore character traits. In groups, have students create character webs for each of the children and share them. Post the webs on the board and then compare and contrast the characters.

#### **Vocabulary**

- Analyze
- Character
- Trait
- Physical
- Personality

## Lesson

### Orientation Activity

Ask students:

1. What is a character?
2. What does it mean when someone has character?
3. Who were some of the characters of the story Charlie and the Chocolate Factory?

### Learning Activity

Discuss the difference between *physical traits* and *personality traits*. *Physical traits* are things about a character that you can see on the outside. *Personality traits* are things that are inside a person, in their minds and in their hearts.

Tell students that for each character, they need to list as many words as they can describing physical and personality traits on *Handout A* - Graphic Organizer (younger students can draw pictures). When they have completed their graphic organizer, students should answer questions 1-4 on *Handout A* individually. Use the overhead to display the graphic organizer and have students provide suggestions from their ideas. Review and discuss questions 1-4 as a class and note on the overhead the various answers.

For younger students, provide your class with the descriptive words to paste into the right spot on *Handout A* (graphic organizer). For example: Use five physical characteristic words (young, hefty, tiny, has an accent, pretty) and match them to the right character. Use personality traits such as snotty, bossy, spoiled, greedy, and hard working to match to the character's personality traits. Teachers can discuss each word as they progress emphasizing vocabulary so students can get a better idea of which word belongs to which character and why.

## Evaluation and Follow-Up

### Assessment Tools and Methods

- Assess students by their graphic organizers on *Handout A*
- Extension: List some of the words that the characters used to describe Willy Wonka. Possible answers: *loony, off his rocker, crazy, balmy, nutty, screwy, batty, dippy, dotty, daffy, goofy, buggy, and wacky.*

### Interdisciplinary Connections

- Character/Leadership Education
- Citizenship

*Handout A* possible answers:

(Physical traits may vary depending on who plays the roles.)

## Handout A - Graphic Organizer

Character Name	Physical Traits	Personality Traits
Augustus Gloop		
Veruca Salt		
Violet Beauregarde		
Mike Teavee		
Charlie Bucket		

1. Explain which of the four other children is most like Charlie Bucket and why?

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2. Explain which of the four other children is the most different from Charlie Bucket and why?

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3. What is the difference between Charlie and the rest of the four children?

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4. Why did Charlie's character help him earn the factory at the end of the story?

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## Handout A - Graphic Organizer Answer Key

Character Name	Physical Traits	Personality Traits
Augustus Gloop	hefty, large, German, always eating, accent,	focused, disgusting, greedy
Veruca Salt	young	snotty, mean, bossy, spoiled, rude, greedy, a "bad egg," pampered
Violet Beauregarde	chews gum	obnoxious, rude, ambitious
Mike Teavee	shoots a cap pistol	loves television, loves gangster shows and westerns, enthusiastic, impatient
Charlie Bucket	small, skinny	sweet, hard working, honest, friendly, polite, loves his family, shy, patient

1. Answers vary. Suggestion: Mike Teavee because he is a small boy and he isn't quite as greedy and obnoxious as the other children.
2. Answers vary. Suggestion: Veruca Salt because she's so loud, rich, and spoiled, where Charlie is quiet, poor, and appreciates all that he has.
3. Charlie is different from the rest of the four children because he holds many positive personality traits, while the other children's personality traits are mostly negative.
4. Why did Charlie's character help him earn the factory at the end of the story? Charlie's honesty and true heart helped change Willy Wonka's mind even after he had broken the rules. Charlie wasn't afraid to admit when he was wrong and apologize.