

STEAL REFERENCE GUIDE

Characterization is the process that an author uses to reveal the personality of a character.

Direct characterization is when the narrator explicitly states the type of person a character is.

Indirect characterization is when readers make inferences about a character's personality based on various pieces of implicit information. Indirect characterization allows the reader to form their own interpretations and make their own judgments about the characters, which can make the reading experience more engaging. Additionally, indirect characterization can also reveal a character's complexity and depth, making them feel more realistic and relatable.

	Method of Indirect Characterization	Questions to Ask
S	Speech	What does the character say? How does the character speak? What does the character imply about himself/herself through dialogue?
T	Thoughts	What is the character thinking? How is she/he feeling? What is revealed through the character's private thoughts and feelings?
E	Effect on others toward the character	How do others feel about the character? How do other characters feel or behave in reaction to the character? What is revealed through the character's effect on other people?
A	Actions	What does the character do? How does the character behave? What do the character's actions reveal about their motivations and further divulge about the character?
L	Looks	What is the physical description of the character? What does he/she look like? How does the character dress? What does the character's appearance reveal about him/her?