



Indirect Characterization

Characterization means the creation of a fictional character. Characterization can be either direct or indirect. Direct characterization is what the author tells you about a character. Indirect characterization is what you can infer from the characters actions and interactions with other characters.

Read each short passage. Identify the implied character trait.

1. John loves animals. He works as a technician in a veterinarian's office. He also volunteers twenty hours a week at the local animal shelter. John has four dogs himself; he tends to take in dogs that have behavioral problems and nowhere else to go.
2. Ella and her sister both applied for the same job, and Ella's sister got it. Ever since she found out, Ella has been cold to her sister.
3. Every morning, without fail, Wanda wakes at six, has exactly two cups of coffee at her desk, works all morning at her computer, and takes a lunch break at 11:30.
4. After the electrician finished the wiring work, there was a hole in the wall. Kyle cut a patch out of some spare drywall he had lying around, got out his spackle, and patched it up.
5. There is a funny smell in Ryan's room. He had to pick up a week's worth of clothes off the floor to find the banana peel rotting in a corner.