

Character Map Reading Module Teacher Masters

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TM#1: Engage Prior Knowledge— Silent Warm-Up

1) A character from a movie or TV show is: _____.

2) One word to describe that character is: _____.

3) Something about the character from the movie/TV show that supports your one-word description:

TM#2: Demonstrate—Passage

Elizabeth, or Beth as everyone called her, was thirteen. She nearly always wore a peaceful expression which was almost never disturbed. Her father called her “Little Miss Tranquility,” which fit her well. She seemed to live in a happy world of her own, only reaching out to the few people whom she trusted and loved.

Beth was considered a “housewifely” girl. This means that she helped keep the home neat and comfortable, never thinking of any reward but to be loved. She spent long, quiet days alone, but not lonely or bored, because her world was filled with imaginary friends. There were six dolls to be cared for and dressed every morning, for Beth was a child still and loved her “babies” as much as ever. But she didn’t have a single whole or handsome doll; Beth inherited all of her sisters’ old and outgrown dolls, and they were broken, torn, or dirty. Beth cherished them all the more tenderly for that very reason, and she set up a hospital for sick dolls, and called them, “My little dears.” No pins were ever stuck into their cotton forms, no hard words or blows were ever given them, no neglect, but all were fed and clothed, cared for and caressed with an affection which never failed.

Adapted from: Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women*. Project Gutenberg. Web. 16 Aug 2011.

TM#3: Demonstrate—Character Map

Example Character Map showing all of the SLATE methods of characterization

S-L-A-T-E

- Says
- Looks like
- Acts
- Thinks
- Effect on others

An example of each:

What?

What the character says and looks like, how the character acts and thinks, and the effect the character has on others

Copy it from the text!

So he or she is...

One word to describe the character

Character:

Beth

says

"My little dears"

motherly

looks like

"...wore a peaceful expression..."

calm

acts

"...six dolls to be cared for and dressed..."

caring

thinks

"...never thinking of any reward but to be loved..."

selfless

effect on others

"Her father called her 'Little Miss Tranquility'..."

calm

TM#4: Demonstrate—Character Traits List

adventurous	lazy
afraid	loyal
aggressive	moody
ambitious	motherly
angry	neat
bossy	negative
brave	nervous
calm	playful
caring	popular
cheerful	positive
clever	proper
conceited	proud
cooperative	quiet
courageous	respectful
creative	responsible
cruel	rude
curious	selfish
demanding	selfless
easygoing	serious
energetic	shy
fatherly	silly
formal	simple
funny	strict
generous	strong
gentle	thoughtful
grumpy	wise
hard-working	_____
helpful	_____
honest	_____
hopeful	_____
humble	_____
independent	_____
intelligent	_____
kind	_____

TM#5: Practice—Passage

Stanley was sitting about ten rows back, his arms on his armrest. His backpack lay on the seat next to him. It contained his toothbrush, toothpaste, and a box of stationery his mother had given him. He'd promised to write to her at least once a week....

Stanley and his parents had tried to pretend that he was just going away to camp for a while, just like rich kids do. When Stanley was younger he used to play with stuffed animals, and pretend the animals were at camp. Camp Fun and Games he called it. Sometimes he'd have them play soccer with a marble. Other times they'd run an obstacle course, or go bungee jumping off a table, tied to broken rubber bands. Now Stanley tried to pretend he was going to Camp Fun and Games. Maybe he'd make some friends, he thought. At least he'd get to swim in the lake.

Adapted from Sachar, Louis. *Holes*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. 6–7.

Choose three examples of SLATE.

TM#6: Practice— Character Map:

S-L-A-T-E

- Says
- Looks like
- Acts
- Thinks
- Effect on others

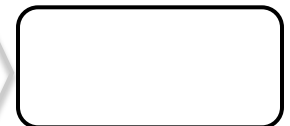
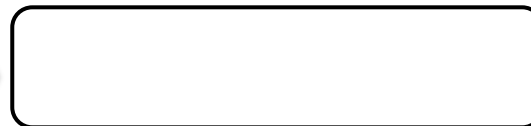
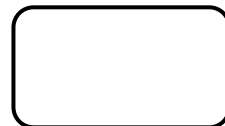
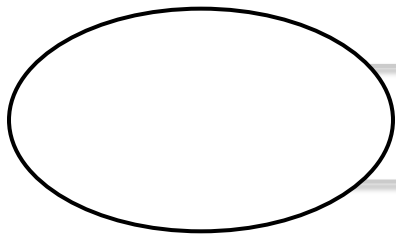
What?

What the character says and looks like, how the character acts and thinks, and the effect the character has on others
Copy it from the text!

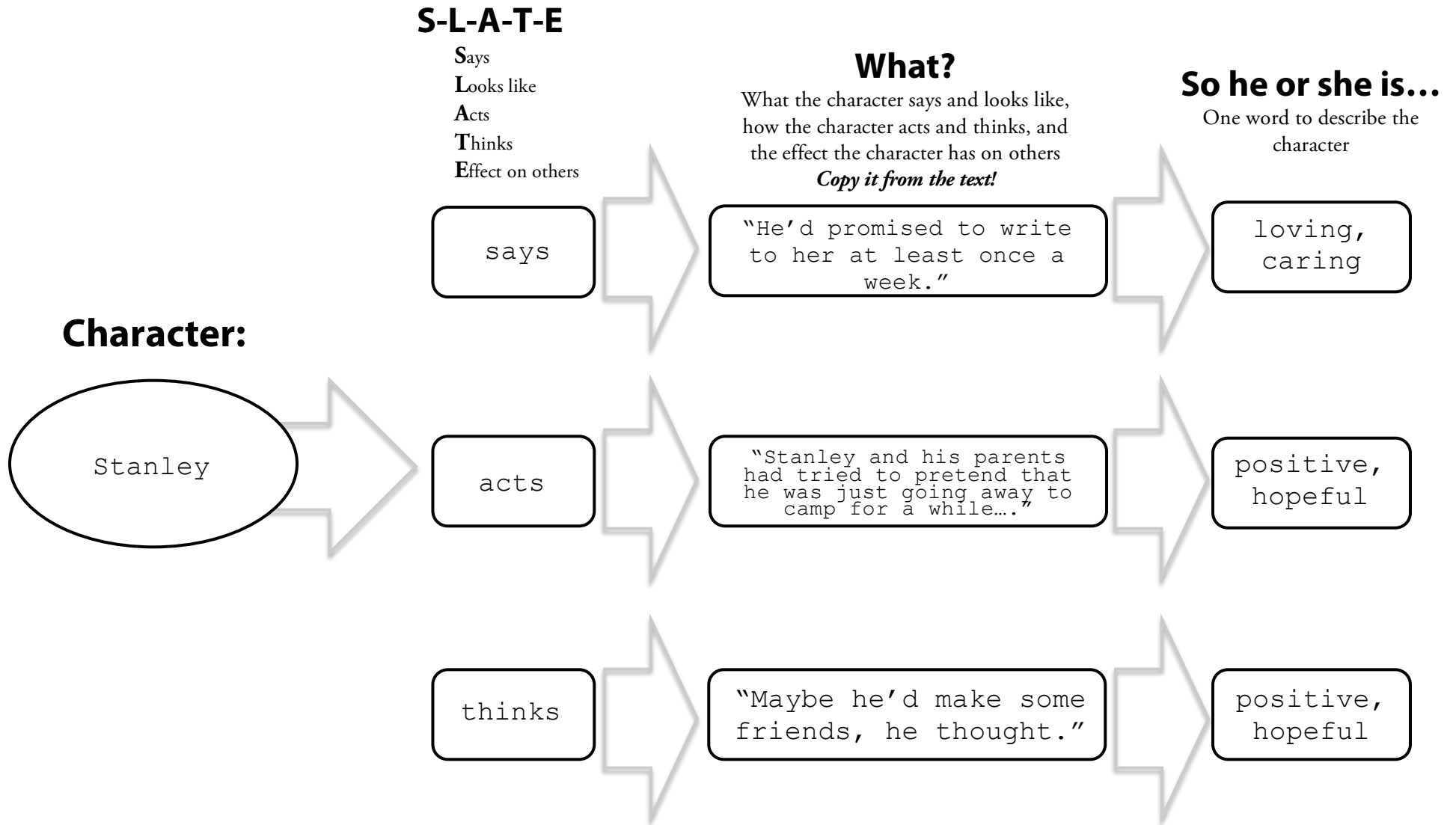
So he or she is...

One word to describe the character

Character:



TM#7: Practice— Possible Answers:



Name: _____

Date: _____

TM#8: Independent Practice Answer Key

Part 1: Review the Strategy

Directions: What are the five methods of characterization in SLATE?

S: *says*

L: *looks like*

A: *acts*

T: *thinks*

E: *effect on others*

Part 2: Apply the Strategy

Directions: Read the passage and complete the Character Map that follows.

Mrs. Rachel Lynde lived just where the Avonlea main road dipped down into a little valley. A stream passed nearby that was a complicated, twisting little river in its earlier route through the woods. But by the time it reached Mrs. Lynde's house, it was a quiet, well-behaved little stream, for not even a stream could run past Mrs. Rachel Lynde's door without paying attention to proper behavior. It probably was conscious that Mrs. Rachel was sitting at her window, keeping a sharp eye on everything that passed, from streams to children, and that if she noticed anything odd she would never rest until she had figured out why things were not as she expected.

TM#8: Independent Practice—Answer Key (cont.)

Mrs. Rachel Lynde managed her own business and that of other people as well, at the same time. Her work was always done and well done, she ran the Sewing Circle, helped run the Sunday-school, and was the strongest member of the Church Aid Society. Yet with all this Mrs. Rachel found time to sit for hours at her kitchen window, knitting quilts—she had knitted sixteen of them—and keeping a sharp eye on the main road. Anybody who entered Avonlea or left it had to pass over that road, and so pass under Mrs. Rachel's all-seeing eye.

She was sitting there one afternoon in early June. Her husband was sowing his late turnip seed on the hill field beyond the barn; and Matthew Cuthbert should have been planting his turnip seed on the big field away over by his house. Mrs. Rachel knew that he should, because she had heard him tell Peter Morrison the evening before in the Carmody store that he meant to plant his turnip seed the next afternoon. So Mrs. Rachel wondered about this curious behavior.

Adapted from: Montgomery, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables*. Project Gutenberg. Web. 27 June 2008.

TM#8: Independent Practice—Answer Key (cont.)

Choose three examples of SLATE.

S-L-A-T-E

- Says
- Looks like
- Acts
- Thinks
- Effect on others

What?

What the character says and looks like, how the character acts and thinks, and the effect the character has on others

Copy it from the text!

So he or she is...

One word to describe the character

Character:

Mrs. Rachel

