

SLATE

Writing Module

Student Booklet

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- SB#2: Demonstrate and Practice—Writer’s Character Map
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SB#1: Engage Prior Knowledge— Silent Warm-Up

Directions: You have previously learned five ways that an author can describe a character, using SLATE. In the lists below, circle the word that each letter stands for.

S

Stands Says Seems like Stars Sees

L

Laughs at Leaps Lifts Learns Looks like

A

Asks Attempts Appears Acts Afraid

T

Thinks Tries to Talks Tells Tired

E

Encourages Errors Exits Effect on others Escapes

My story will be about...

Write a short summary of the story you have planned.
Paul goes to a party and his mom tells him a time to be home. Paul stays out later than they agreed, so his mom is terribly upset when he gets home.

SB#2: Demonstrate and Practice—Writer’s Character Map

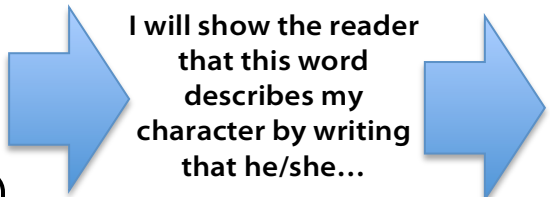
Paul’s mom
(my character’s name)

Readers should know that my character is...

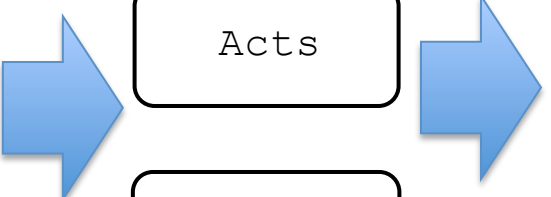
Write one character trait in each box.
(You might repeat them.)

caring

worried



I will show the reader that this word describes my character by writing that he/she...



Prove it by S-L-A-T-E

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

Says

Looks like

Acts

Thinks

Effects on others



Write exactly what the character will say, look like, do, or think, or what effect she/he will have on others

Write specific detail you could include in your story.

“Even though you’re grown up, you’re still my baby!”

Crying, red eyes, red nose

SB#3: Practice—Character Traits List

Adventurous	Motherly
Afraid	Neat
Aggressive	Negative
Ambitious	Nervous
Angry	Playful
Bossy	Popular
Brave	Positive
Calm	Proper
Caring	Proud
Cheerful	Quiet
Clever	Respectful
Conceited	Responsible
Cooperative	Rude
Courageous	Selfish
Creative	Selfless
Cruel	Serious
Curious	Shy
Demanding	Silly
Easy-going	Simple
Energetic	Strict
Fatherly	Strong
Formal	Thoughtful
Funny	Wise
Generous	_____
Gentle	_____
Grumpy	_____
Hard-working	_____
Helpful	_____
Honest	_____
Hopeful	_____
Humble	
Independent	
Intelligent	
Kind	
Lazy	
Loyal	
Moody	

Scoring:	
	Points earned (circle one):
Five elements of SLATE	0 1 2 3 4 5
Character identified	0 1
Details (right column) match the character traits (left column)	0 1 2 3 4 5
Details (right column) match the SLATE column (middle column)	0 1 2 3 4 5
Total points (out of 16):	

Name: _____

Date: _____

SB#4: Independent Practice

Part 1: Review the Strategy

Directions: How do authors tell us about their characters? Write what each letter of SLATE stands for.

S: _____

L: _____

A: _____

T: _____

E: _____

Part 2: Apply the Strategy

Directions: Complete the *Writer's Character Map* on the next page, for a story that you could write. Follow your teacher's directions about story guidelines.

My story will be about...

Write a short summary of the story you have planned.

SB#4: Independent Practice (cont.)—Writer’s Character Map

_____ *(my character’s name)*

Readers should know that my character is...

*Write one character trait in each box.
(You might repeat them.)*

Prove it by S-L-A-T-E

Says, **L**ooks like, **A**cts, **T**hinks, **E**ffect on others

Write exactly what the character will say, look like, do, or think, or what effect she/he will have on others

Write specific detail you could include in your story.

