Characterization

Characterization is when authors create situations that show us a little bit about a character's personality based on the way they behave.

We learn about a character's personality in two ways:

#1:   Direct Characterization: The author *tells* us what the personality of a character is.

"The *introverted* girl rarely ventured outside and spent all of her time reading books."

#2. Indirect Characterization: (Inferred Characterization) The author *shows* us things that reveal a character's personality. Indirect characterization requires the reader to infer a character's personality traits.

There are five different methods of indirect characterization:

Speech

What does the character say?

How does the character speak?

Thoughts

What is revealed through the character's private thoughts and feelings?

Effects

What is revealed through the character's effect on other people?

How do other characters feel or behave in reaction to the character?

Actions

What does the character do?

How does the character behave?

Looks

What does the character look like?

How does the character dress?

Identifying Character Traits (Characterization)

Walter Beckett in...
PIGEON: Impossible
a film by Lucas Martell

Directions:

#1. Watch the Pigeon Impossible Video.

Vimeo: http://vimeo.com/8527864
OR
YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEjUAnPc2VA

#2. At each stop point, answer the question.

#3. If the question is an Indirect Characterization question that requires an inference, be sure to use clues and information in the video plus your background knowledge and personal experience to make your inference.

Stop Point :18

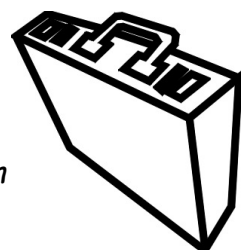Inference Question: *Why does the author create a circle around the man crossing the street?* _____

_____

_____

Stop Point :32

Inference Question: *Why does the author create camera noises and then focus on the suitcases in the man's hand?* _____
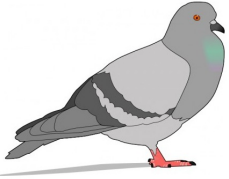
_____

_____

Stop Point :36

Characterization: *At this point we learn that the main character's name is Walter Beckett AND that he is a Junior CIA Agent. Which type of characterization is this? (circle)*

Direct Characterization   *Indirect Characterization*

Stop Point 1:02

Indirect Characterization: What can we infer from the pigeon's actions at this point?_____

_____

_____

Stop Point 1:07

Indirect Characterization: What can we infer from the man's actions towards the pigeon? (How does he feel?) _____

_____

_____

Stop Point 1:17

Indirect Characterization: What do the pigeon's actions tell us?_____

_____

_____

Stop Point 2:12

Indirect Characterization: Based on the way the pigeon acts when he is inside the case, what character traits would you use to describe him?

_____   _____

Stop Point 2:42

Inference Question: Why does the man hold up the bagel? _____

_____

_____

Stop Point 3:15

Indirect Characterization: What is *most likely* the reason that the pigeon does not get out of the case? _____

_____

_____

Stop Point 4:01

Summarize:

In your own words, state what has JUST happened and what situation the man now faces. _____

_____

_____

_____

Stop Point 5:02

Indirect Characterization: What does it tell us about the man's character that he chooses NOT to shoot the bird? _____

_____

_____

Stop Point 5:33

Indirect Characterization: Why did the man walk away even though he knew the rocket was falling? _____

_____

_____