Name:

Characterization

Character relationships are important. In every story, each character has a motivation, or reasons for acting/feeling/thinking the way they do. Authors use *direct and indirect characterization* to reveal a character’s motivations and personality.

Direct characterization: The author directly tells the reader what the character is like.

Example: John Proctor is good of heart but not without his faults.

Indirect characterization: The author lets the reader figure out character traits given wording that leads the reader to a conclusion.

Example: When Abigail says she has ‘changed’ the reader can make the conclusion that she used be amoral….and may also conclude that Abigail is deeply disturbed because she has even convinced herself of her lies. When John Proctor tells the townspeople Abigail is not pure, it reveals again that she is amoral.

The reader may *indirectly* learn about a character’s intent and personality by learning from the character’s thoughts and feelings and through what others say about the character.

Conflict: Conflict is closely related to a character’s motivation. Conflict is the struggle between two or more things. How a character handles conflict reveals a lot about their character.

Example: A person who steals to eat rather than getting a job reveals they are amoral, but one who chooses to get a job to earn enough money for food is responsible.

DIRECTIONS: Complete the following chart. After completion, you will write an essay: Think of what you mean when you use the words “honor,” “truth,” “justice,” or “courage.” Choose one character that exemplifies your idea of one of these ideals and explain how he/she lives up to your standards. Or, do the reverse: fails to live up to your standards.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Abigail Williams | |
| Main Motivation | She wants to be with John Proctor, she thinks she loves him. |
| Main Conflict | John Proctor has a wife, so Abigail is unable to marry him as long as Elizabeth is alive. |
| Personality | Conniving, lustful, vengeful, controlling, manipulative, amoral, disturbed- out of touch with reality. |
| Effect on Plot | After Tituba is forced to confess, Abigail seizes the opportunity to name more...leading to Elizabeth being accused. She sees the accusations as a way to get out of trouble and to get rid of Elizabeth. |
| John Proctor | |
| Main Motivation |  |
| Main Conflict |  |
| Personality |  |
| Effect on Plot |  |
| Elizabeth Proctor | |
| Main Motivation |  |
| Main Conflict |  |
| Personality |  |
| Effect on Plot |  |
| Mary Warren | |
| Main Motivation |  |
| Main Conflict |  |
| Personality |  |
| Effect on Plot |  |
| Rebecca Nurse | |
| Main Motivation |  |
| Main Conflict |  |
| Personality |  |
| Effect on Plot |  |
| Tituba | |
| Main Motivation |  |
| Main Conflict |  |
| Personality |  |
| Effect on Plot |  |
| Rev. Samuel Parris | |
| Main Motivation |  |
| Main Conflict |  |
| Personality |  |
| Effect on Plot |  |
| Rev. Hale | |
| Main Motivation |  |
| Main Conflict |  |
| Personality |  |
| Effect on Plot |  |
| Thomas Putnam | |
| Main Motivation |  |
| Main Conflict |  |
| Personality |  |
| Effect on Plot |  |
| Goody Ann Putnam | |
| Main Motivation |  |
| Main Conflict |  |
| Personality |  |
| Effect on Plot |  |
| Your Choice- Extra Credit Character: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| Main Motivation |  |
| Main Conflict |  |
| Personality |  |
| Effect on Plot |  |