

1**Types of Characters and Character Traits**

Review: To **identify a protagonist**, look for the individual who is at the center of the action. To **identify a minor character**, look for an individual who is less important than the protagonist. To **identify character traits**, look for the following: direct comments about a character's personality by the narrator; physical descriptions of the character's appearance; descriptions of the character's speech, actions, or thoughts; and reactions of other characters.

Directions: In the following passage, **circle** the protagonist's name and **underline** the minor character's name.

1. Jason picked up the history test, his hands trembling a bit. He glanced down at the test and, with a burst of joy, saw that he could answer the first question. He looked up at his teacher, who caught his eye and smiled.

Directions: In each of the numbered character descriptions, **circle** the letter of the answer that correctly indicates the character trait portrayed and the method(s) used to reveal it.

2. Amy looked at her group of first-graders, noticing the runny nose on one boy, the daydreaming look in another's eyes. "Hi!" she said brightly, giving the first boy a tissue and speaking to the daydreamer to get his attention. "I'm Amy, and I'll be with you during recess today. Okay? Off you go!"
 - a. Amy is insecure, revealed by the narrator's words, her speech, and the reactions of others.
 - b. Amy is observant, revealed by the narrator's words and her speech and actions.
 - c. Amy is bossy, revealed by her speech and another character's reaction.
3. Matt waited outside the front door. He always found Jessie's parties a little scary. As he was about to ring the bell, Megan tapped his shoulder. She grinned and said, "Let's face this together, shall we?"
 - a. Matt is confident, revealed by his thoughts and another character's reaction.
 - b. Matt is unhappy, revealed by the narrator's words and his actions.
 - c. Matt is shy, revealed by the narrator's words and another character's words.
4. At the bottom of the hill, Allison called, "Beat you to the top!" and took off. Kyle called to her back, "Let's just enjoy ourselves, Ali. Enough with the competition. Okay?" Allison turned, smiled, and waited for him.
 - a. Kyle is sensible, revealed by his words and another character's response.
 - b. Kyle is angry, revealed by his words and actions and the narrator's words.
 - c. Kyle is manipulative, revealed by the narrator's comments.