

**Review:** Characters are the people, animals, or imaginary creatures in a work of literature. All characters have traits, or qualities, that distinguish them. Characterization is how an author creates and develops the traits of a character. Authors use four main methods to develop a character. These methods are: (1) making direct comments about the character through the voice of the narrator; (2) providing a physical description of the character; (3) Showing the thoughts, speech, and actions of the character; and (4) showing what other characters think about, say to, or do to the character.

**Directions:** Read each description of a character. Think about how the author develops the character's traits. Then circle the letter of the *best* answer.

1.

Ned was living up to his reputation as a hard hitter with control and finesse. With a backhand as good as his forehand, he moved gracefully from side to side, returning balls with quiet authority. When his desperate opponent tried lobbing the ball over Ned's head, the star player reached up and showed an overhead shot as strong as his forehand.

In this passage, the author mainly characterizes Ned by

- a. the narrator's direct comments.
- b. a description of Ned's physical appearance.
- c. Ned's words and thoughts.
- d. another character's words, actions, or thoughts.

2.

Mr. Deeds gulped down his fish far too ravenously and with no concern for the inevitable bones. When he came to one, he gave an agonizing cry of terror, clutched his throat, and stammered "B-b-bone!" as if everyone at the table didn't know it. With his face turning beet red, he jumped from his chair and motioned wildly for Mrs. Deeds to pound his back.

In this passage, the author mainly characterizes Mr. Deeds by

- a. the narrator's direct comments.
- b. a description of Mr. Deed's physical appearance.
- c. Mr. Deeds' actions and words.
- d. another character's words, actions, or thoughts.