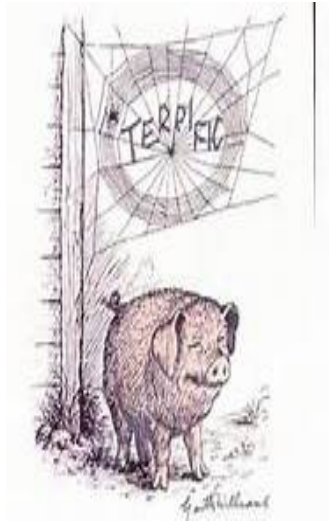


Character Traits of Characters in Charlotte's Web



Essential Questions

- What are character traits?
- What are personality traits v/s physical traits?
- How to determine character traits?

Learning Intention / Overview

This activity will allow students to develop an understanding of character traits that include personality traits as well as physical traits. Students will use characters' actions and/or dialogue from the text to determine character traits.

Methods / Teaching Strategies

- Group work
- Chapter Book Reading
- Personalized Learning
- Individual Task

Assessment of Learning

- Character Traits Sheet (provided)
- Class Discussion

How might you customize or alter this lesson?

Key Learning Areas

Describe Characters in a Story

Concepts Taught

Character Traits

Target Age

9 – 12 Year Olds

Duration

1 x 60 minute Session

You will need:

Charlotte's Web Chapter book, Common Character Traits Chart, Character Traits Sheet, Smart Board/Overhead



edgalaxy.com
Cool Stuff for Nerdy Teachers

Online Resources:

- <http://edgalaxy.com/education-quotes>
- <http://edgalaxy.com/classroom-posters-charts/2013/9/10/14->

Teaching Instructions

Explain to students that character traits are characteristics that make an individual into the kind of person/character he/she is. Character traits can be determined by one's actions, dialogue, or looks.

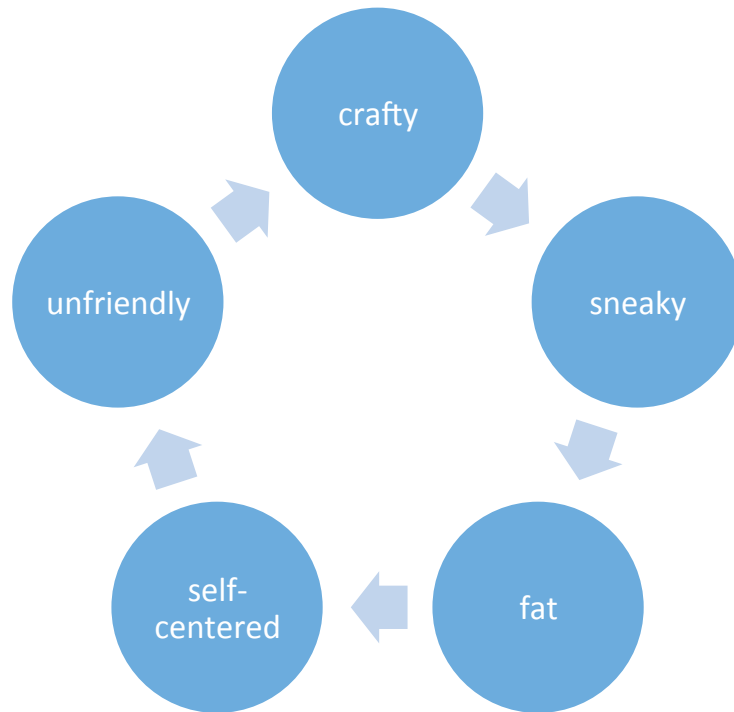
Discuss the differences between personality traits (how you act) and physical traits (what you look like).

Look at the chart below of common traits. **This is just a sample of character traits.**

PERSONALITY TRAITS		PHYSICAL TRAITS	
adventurous	artistic	tall	short
athletic	active	skinny	fat
beautiful	brave	blond	dark-headed
brave	bossy	messy appearance	round eyes
curious	creative	small	large
cunning	daring	web-footed	left-handed
energetic	entertaining	long-haired	toothless
funny	generous	scaly	long-nosed
lazy	persistent	thin	lanky
trustworthy	grumpy	Forked tongue	skin colors

When you know that Templeton from Charlotte's Web is a "rat" it helps you to form a mental picture of him. This is using your prior knowledge of rats. Then after reading the book you have proof to either back up your original ideas or use new words to describe him based on his actions or looks in the text.

Show the following graphic organizer to the students showing the character traits of Templeton from Charlotte’s Web. Discuss these words and what they usually mean along with story details that support each word choice.



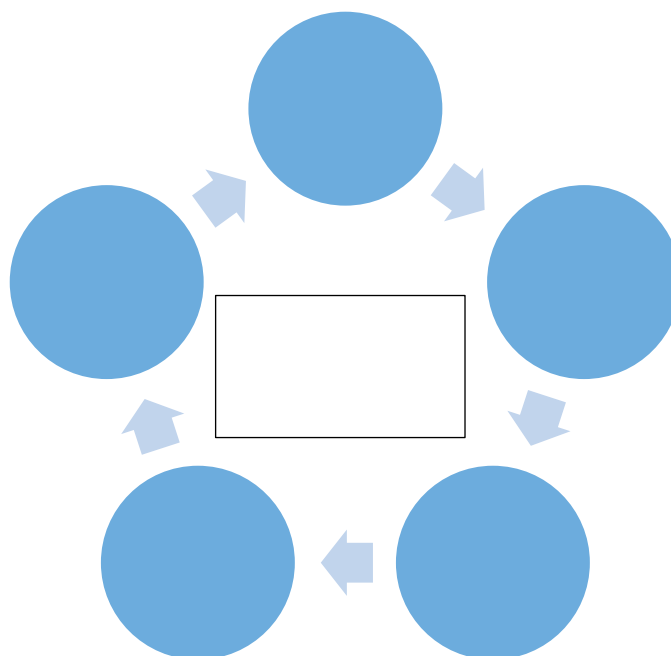
Crafty	Skillful at deceiving others	He knew how to get what he wanted at times without seeming bad.
Sneaky	A sly or secret way of behaving	Hunts at night for food.
fat	Thick, having much body, swollen up	Pictures and descriptions of his belly
Self-centered	selfish	Finds words for Charlotte but only after being bribed with food for himself
unfriendly	Not friendly or opposite of friendly	He wasn't interested in being friends with other animals at the barn/barnyard.

Distribute “Character Traits” worksheet for students to complete independently.

CHARACTER TRAITS



Choose a character other than Templeton from Charlotte's Web by E.B. White. Fill in the graphic organizer below with the character's name in the middle and character traits around the name.



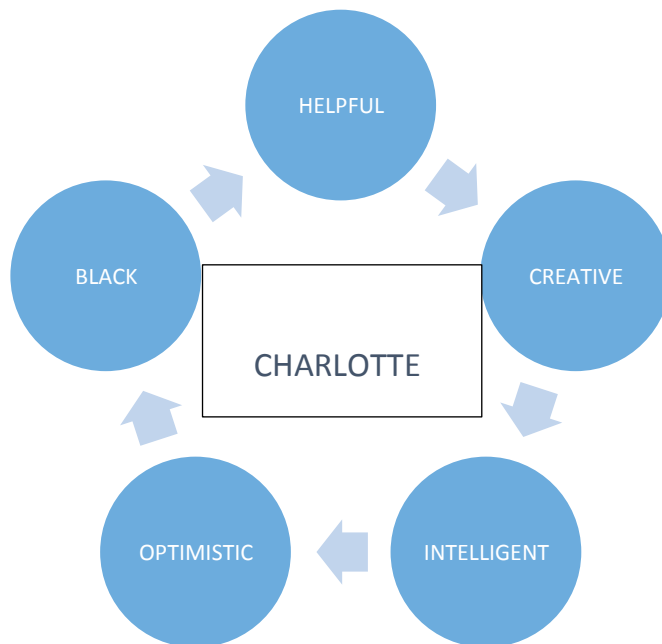
List each character trait in the left hand column. Write the definition in the middle and a story event in the right to support each character trait.

CHARACTER TRAITS

ANSWER KEY



ANSWERS WILL VARY



BLACK	A VERY DARK COLOR	SHE'S A SPIDER AND ILLUSTRATIONS IN THE BOOK
HELPFUL	PROVIDING HELP OR ASSISTANCE	CHARLOTTE HELPS CALM WILBUR DOWN WHEN HE REALIZES THE FARMER WANTS TO FATTEN HIM UP TO EAT.
CREATIVE	ABLE TO CREATE NEW OR ORIGINAL THINGS	CHARLOTTE WEAVES WORDS TO DESCRIBE WILBUR IN HER WEBS.
INTELLIGENT	HAVING A GREAT AMOUNT OF MENTAL ABILITY	CHARLOTTE FIGURED OUT HOW TO KEEP WILBUR FROM BEING KILLED BY DRAWING ATTENTION TO HIM THROUGH HER WEB CREATIONS.
OPTIMISTIC	EXPECTING EVERYTHING TO COME OUT ALRIGHT.	CHARLOTTE KNOWS SHE IS DYING BUT SHE KNOWS THAT HER EGG SAC WILL BE OK AND SO WILL WILBUR.

