Characterization Methods: “D.DAT”

D.DAT is a simple mnemonic device to help readers remember how writers develop characters.

DIRECT characterization:

Description:

Example: *He had a great sense of humor.* (No inference is required.)

INDIRECT characterization:

Dialogue:

Example: *“I want to save the whales,” she explained.* (We can infer that she cares about animals and maybe that she is idealistic.)

Actions:

Example: *The young man studied every night and earned straight A’s in high school.* (We can infer that he is hardworking and perseverant.)

Thoughts:

Example: *The girl wondered if the boy would ask her to dance.* (We can infer that she has a crush on him.)

Let’s try it…. **CHARACTER’S NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **QUOTE/EVIDENCE** | **INFERENCE** |
| Description: |  | N/A because the evidence literally describes the character. |
| Dialogue: |  |  |
| Actions: |  |  |
| Thoughts: |  |  |