

Lesson Skill: Identifying and illustrating character traits

Strand Reading--fiction

SOL 6.5
7.5
8.5

Materials

- Text selection with well-developed characters
- Butcher paper or poster board
- Crayons or markers
- Yarn in several different colors

Lesson

1. Have students read a portion of the text selection that includes ample information about the characters.
2. Group the students in pairs or small groups, and assign each group a character. Have each group brainstorm traits of their assigned character with one group member keeping notes and recording all references to the text.
3. Have each group create a graphic to represent the character traits of the character. This graphic may be a picture, a collage, or some other graphic depiction. Encourage students to use their imaginations. All characteristics presented in graphic format must also be accompanied by excerpts from the text that support those characteristics.
4. Have groups present their graphics to the class, and have other students add to the images and/or challenge traits that they feel are inaccurate.
5. Have groups add to these character graphics as students continue to read the selection. Relationships between characters may be shown by connecting them with various colors of yarn—for instance, green for friends, red for enemies, blue for family.