CHARACTERIZATION
CHARACTERIZATION

• Characters are the people, animals, or imaginary creatures in a story.

• The main character is the one who the story is mostly about.
Readers come to know a character through the character’s words, thoughts, and actions.
Analyze characters including their

- Traits
- Motivations
- Conflicts
- Points of view
- Relationships
- Changes they undergo
Characters have certain traits, or qualities, that make them unique and set them apart from the other characters.

Is your character

- skillful?
- thoughtful?
- intelligent?
- dishonest?
- persistent?
- concerned?
- fearful?
- determined?
- friendly?
- lazy?
- capable?
- wise?
A character’s motivation is what makes him/her think, feel, or act in a particular way.

When you know the reasons for a character’s actions, thoughts, or feelings, you understand his/her motivation.

A character’s motivation influences his/her actions. The actions, in turn, reveal the character’s traits.
A character may be motivated by:

- Fear
- Guilt
- Greed
- Anger
- Revenge
- Peace
- Success
- Love
QUESTIONS to ask about characters

• How does the character feel?
• How do other characters feel about the character?
• What does the character do?
• What does the character say?
• What do other characters say about the character?
• How does the character change in the story?
Characters that CHANGE or not!

- **DYNAMIC CHARACTERS**—change throughout the story

- **STATIC CHARACTERS**—stay the same or do not change throughout the story
You can tell a lot about a character by examining the character’s relationships in the story.

Types of relationships:
- between/among other characters
- with self
- with society
- with nature/environment
Just as we are changed by our experiences in real life, characters undergo changes in a story.

A character often changes as different events unfold, and these changes can affect the outcome of the story.
Types of Changes

- Intellectual
- Emotional
- Physical
- Change from beginning to end
- Change before an event and after an event in the plot
TAKS QUESTION TIPS:

• **MAKE SURE** you go back to the passage to find clues to accurately support your answer about characters.

• **WATCH OUT** for inaccurate/contradictory information.

• **WATCH OUT** for plausible statements that aren’t supported by information in the passage.
16. In paragraph 5, why does Angela forget what she is supposed to do first?

- F. She has recently made a change to her program.  
  *Plausible statement but not supported by passage*

- G. She gets upset after she makes a mistake.  
  *Contradicts information in the passage.*

- H. She decides to try a jump she has never done before.  
  *Contradicts information in the passage.*

- J. She is nervous about competing in the championship.  
  *Correct answer.*
**TAKS STEM QUESTIONS**

**TRAITS**
- In paragraph ____, what does it mean when the narrator says “____________”?
- In paragraph ____, ________________ was a little nervous (excited, sad, etc.) because he/she—

**MOTIVATION**
- In paragraph ____, why does _____________ do ________________?

**CONFLICT**
- ______________ is worried because –
- Why is ________________ distracted when ________________?
POINT OF VIEW
• How does the narrator’s view change by the end of the selection?

RELATIONSHIPS
• From his/her actions toward _____________ provided in the story, the reader can conclude –

CHANGES
• How do ______________ and ______________’s attitudes differ at the beginning of the story?
• Which of these best describes ______________’s attitude at the end of the story?