C:\Documents and Settings\kathleenvolta\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\OEUK2G2V\MC900441908[1].wmf**Methods of Characterization & Inference in *The Secret Life of Bees***

How do authors choose to describe and develop characters? Authors bring their characters to life though characterization. They can do this directly or indirectly.

**Direct Characterization: Ms. Hall is tired.**

*The author directly described Ms. Hall. You did not have to “read between the lines” to figure out Ms. Hall was tired.*

**Indirect Characterization: Ms. Hall drinks a lot of coffee.**

*The* *author indirectly told you something about Ms. Hall. Because she drinks so much coffee, we can infer that she is probably tired.*

When an author uses indirect characterization, readers must make an inference, or a logical guess, about that character.

There are five basic ways an author can use indirect characterization:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **S**peech | What does the character say? How does the character speak? | What can we infer based on what they say? |
| **T**houghts | What is revealed through the character’s private thoughts and feelings? | What can we infer based on how they think? |
| **E**ffect on other characters | What is revealed through the character’s effect on other people? How do other characters feel or behave in reaction to the character? | What can we infer based on what other characters say and think about this character? |
| **A**ctions | What does the character do? How does the character behave? | What can we infer based on the actions of the character? |
| **L**ooks | What does the character look like? How does the character dress? | What can we infer based on what the character looks like? |

Now that we have reviewed, you are going to practice your characterization skills. Using the notes from your study guide packet and your brilliant minds, create a character sketch of one of the major characters from *The Secret Life of Bees.*How does Sue Monk Kidd choose to describe this character? Consider what she says, thinks, what other characters say about her, how she acts, and what she looks like.

Character:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Method | Evidence | Inference |
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Once you have created your chart, you are going to make your character come alive. How might you do this you ask? You are going to create a literal character sketch.

**Directions:**

Using the information from your character chart, create a visual representation of your assigned character. This representation **must** include the following pieces:

1. **Center:** A picture/drawing of the character

2. **Lower-Left Corner:** A physical description of the character

3. **Lower-Right Corner:** A personality profile

4. **Upper-Left Corner:** Character Theme Song

1. **Upper-Right Corner:** Position in the Hierarchy (we’ll discuss this)
2. The picture of your character should consume most of the paper. It will be in the center and therefore will be the focal point of your presentation. Use the physical description and personality profile to create this picture. While you will not be graded on your art skills, you will be graded on your ability to create a picture that reflects your character’s traits.
3. In *complete sentences*, write the physical description of your character. In addition to your writing, *you must cite the pages on which you gain your information* from in the book. If you choose to, you may write this description on a lined piece of paper and then attach the paper to the larger sheet.
4. In *complete sentences*, write the personality profile of your character. Again, *you must include the pages* that you use to gain this information along with your writing. You may infer from the text (i.e. statements the character makes) as well as actual descriptions provided by the author to create your character’s profile.
5. Choose a song (any song you want, as long as it is appropriate) that you feel would best represent your character. This song should embody your character’s personality and presence. Write the title of the song, along with 2 - 3 complete sentences explaining why you have chosen this song to represent your character.
6. Describe the character’s position in the hierarchy in the Pink House. If this position would be different outside of the Pink House, explain what it would be and why.
7. Remember to be as creative as you can for this project and to have a little fun with it as well. However, **ALL OF THE METHODS OF CHARCTERIZATION AND IMAGES ON YOUR CHARACTER SKETCH MUST BE TRUE TO THE BOOK AND APPROPRIATE FOR CLASS!**
8. No go get your sketch on.