

Reading Comprehension – Story Elements (Character)

Name: _____

Date: _____

NOTES: Understanding the characters in a story can help you comprehend the story as a whole. As you read, you can find clues to the character's traits or personality characteristics. Some characteristics are confident; some are shy. There are several ways an author can show the traits of the characters in a story. What a character is liked can be revealed by:

1. what the character says
2. what the character does
3. what the narrator or other characters say about the characters
4. how others act toward the character.



Instructions: Read the following story. As you read, look for clues that tell you about the characters.

"Hey, Alex," Marta said. "Do you want to work on our science project after school?"

"I can't," answered Alex. "My grandfather is coming over to help me build a doghouse for Buster. We're going to construct it out of sod, the way the Nebraska pioneers built their homes."

"Why don't you tell him we have to work the science project?" Marta asked.

"No, I promised I'd be home when he arrives, and I always keep my promises," Alex said. "Why don't you come over and help us? We can finish the science project on Saturday."

Marta grinned and nodded. "You have great ideas, Alex. It's a deal."

Choose the correct answer to the following questions.

1. Which of the following traits best describes Alex?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ dishonest | ☐ considerate |
| ☐ snobbish | ☐ musical |

2. How does the reader learn about Alex's character?

- | |
|---|
| ☐ By what other characters say about him |
| ☐ By what he says and does |
| ☐ By how other characters act toward him |
| ☐ By what the narrator says about him |