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## Literary Elements: Character

Characters are the people or animals in a story. When you read a story, pay close attention to the details about each character. Authors help you get to know their story characters by describing them, by telling what each character says and does, and by the thoughts or comments of other characters. Characters may remind you of people you know. They may even remind you of yourself.

Read the story about a girl's first visit to the ocean.

Think about the character named Mara.

On Mara's first visit to the ocean, her father held her hand as the chilly water tickled her feet. "I want to go in!" Mara said immediately. They waded in to meet the waves, and Mara's heart soared.

Afterward, Mara strolled along the sand. "What animal lived in this shell?" she asked her father. "And what about this shell, and this one?" Looking down, she picked up a green stringy-looking substance. "What is this, Dad? Is it a plant or an animal?"

Her father laughed, "You really enjoy learning about new things, don't you?"

When they got home, Mara found some books about the ocean and began reading. She had a new dream. She wanted to dive underwater someday.

Fill in the circle before the word that describes Mara.

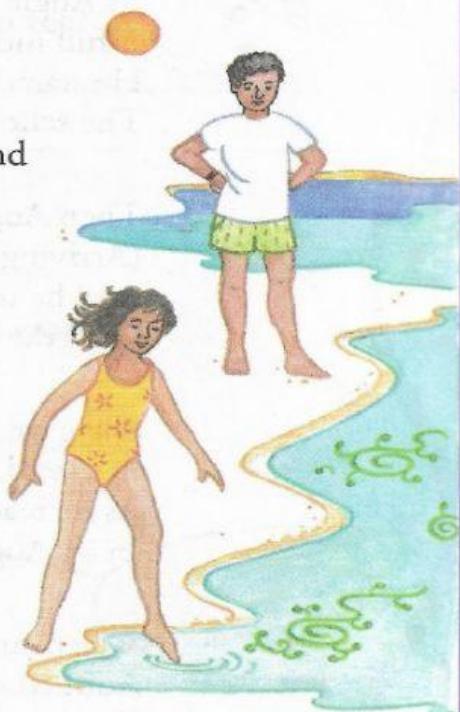
fearful    curious    mean    shy

What does Mara do or say to make you think this way?

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### Tip

Try to understand what story characters are like. The better you know them, the more you will understand and enjoy the story.



## Story Elements: Who is a Character?

A character is a person, animal, or thing that plays an important part in a story. A character thinks, feels, and acts.

All the short sentences below have at least one character. Circle the letter of the character or characters in the sentence.

1. Lou ran past the trees to the house.  
A. Lou      B. trees      C. house
  
2. Later that night the owl left its nest.  
A. night      B. owl      C. nest
  
3. Susan and John played in the sand on the beach.  
A. Susan      B. John      C. sand      D. beach
  
4. The boy told his friend a secret.  
A. boy      B. friend      C. secret
  
5. The dish ran away with the spoon.  
A. dish      B. away      C. spoon
  
6. The dog chased a cat into a hole.  
A. dog      B. cat      C. hole
  
7. As the rain fell, Joe's mother closed the window.  
A. rain      B. Joe      C. mother      D. window
  
8. Since Ava was not home, Lucia went to watch the game alone.  
A. Ava      B. home      C. Lucia      D. game