# Determining Methods of Characterization

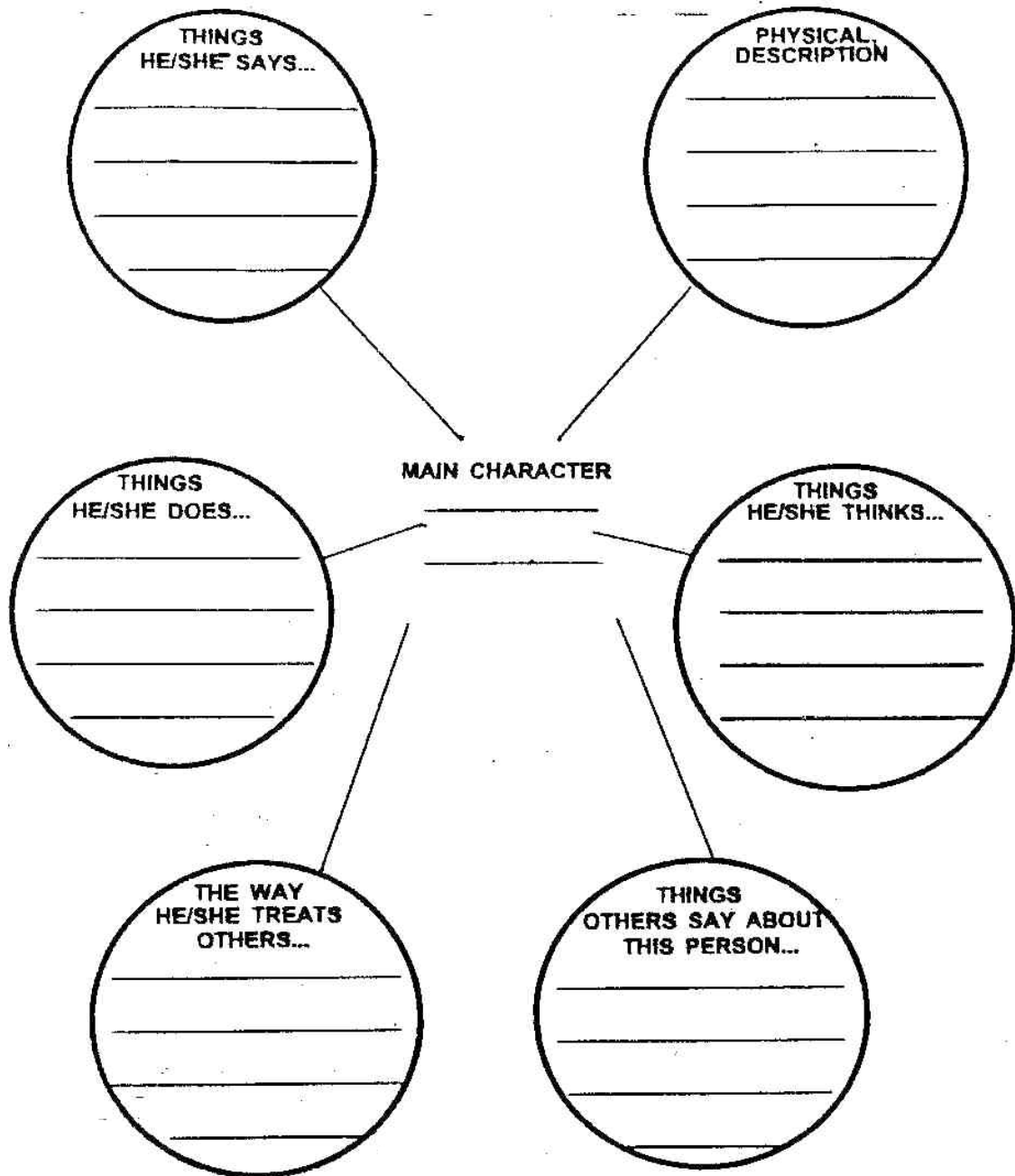Title of Selection:_____

Author: _____

| Methods of Characterization | Examples from the Selection and What They Reveal about the Characters |
|---|---|
| Indirect Characterization | |
| The character is revealed through his/her own speech. *Example: John looked suspiciously at the stranger and repeated himself, "I said Howdy, Paatnaa."* | |
| The writer describes how the character looks and dresses. *Example: He was muscular with a large head and broad shoulders. He wore a red flannel shirt with blue jeans that were soiled from hard work in the woods.* | |
| The character's private thoughts are revealed. *Example: Allen thought to himself, "I shouldn't be afraid, I shouldn't be afraid."* | |
| The writer reveals what other characters in the story say or think about the character. *Example: Jane told me that Sarah was making fun of the other kids.* | |
| The writer show what the character does – how he or she acts. *Example: She gave the boy her last dime.* | |
| Direct Characterization | |

| The writer directly states what kind of person the character is: sneaky, honest, evil, innocent, and so on. *Example: Katrian was a shy girl.* | |
|---|---|

THINGS
HE/SHE SAYS...
_____
_____
_____
_____

PHYSICAL
DESCRIPTION
_____
_____
_____
_____

MAIN CHARACTER
_____
_____

THINGS
HE/SHE DOES...
_____
_____
_____
_____

THINGS
HE/SHE THINKS...
_____
_____
_____
_____

THE WAY
HE/SHE TREATS
OTHERS...
_____
_____
_____

THINGS
OTHERS SAY ABOUT
THIS PERSON...
_____
_____
_____

# Character

*Everything a writer does to portray* character ~~writer~~ *is part of characterization*

## Notes on Character:

- The writer's job is to make the personalities of the characters clear and believable to the reader

## Methods of Characterization:

- Showing the character's appearance
- Displaying the character's thoughts
- Letting the character speak; and
- Getting the reactions of others

## Characters are presented in 2 ways

- **Direct:** The author tell us straight out what type of character they are

    *Example: The author says straight out "He was an extremely troubled man who was haunted by his past"*

- **Indirect:** The author shows us what type of character they are through their actions in the story (what the character does, says or thinks)

    *Example: Because the character is always worried and stressed about his past, we can conclude that he is an extremely troubled man*