LITERATURE LESSON: Analyzing Plot and Character Development

Big Idea: The **central character** in a story **develops** as the events take place.

Big Question: How does the writer help you understand a character?

CCSSRL1. Read closely, make inferences with evidence.  CCSSRL3. Analyze character development

**Take the gradual release of responsibility across the week.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preview</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Interest</th>
<th>Model and GUIDE</th>
<th>GUIDE and go farther</th>
<th>ASSESS and Clarify</th>
<th>Finish well</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target: Infer character traits.</td>
<td>Target: Infer character’s feelings.</td>
<td>Target: Identify way(s) a character changes in a story.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Target: Interpret character development.</td>
<td>Target: Analyze character development.</td>
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**I Do:**
Read part of story aloud.
Think out loud as you read--Who is an important **character**? What do I know about that character? How do I figure out a trait?

**We Do:**
Read another part of the story. Figure out the trait of another character.

**You Do:**
Draw one character, then give picture to another student.
Dialogue: Infer who is pictured and tell a trait the picture shows.

**Assessment:**
List one of your own traits. Tell how your actions show it.

**Assessment:**
Tell how you can figure out a character’s feelings.

**I Do:**
Start a story chart—how do I know how the main character feels during the story?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>How I feel</th>
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**We Do:**
Continue the chart with input from students.

**You Do:**
Complete the chart for another character.

**Assessment:**
Tell how you can figure out a character’s feelings.

**I Do:**
Explain that in most stories the central character changes. The character learns a lesson. Or the character makes a choice that changes his/her future.

Make a list: Choices the main character made. What does one choice show about how the character changed or learned something?

**We do:**
Analyze the list: What did the character learn or how did the character change?

**You Do:**
Write about one choice the character made. What did it lead to?

**Assessment:**
Write a note to the character telling what you think about one choice the character made.

**You Do:** (Formative assessment)
Read a short story or part of a story..
Identify main character and infer trait with evidence.
Identify way(s) the central character changes.

I Do: Check and clarify, extend

**Students needing support:**
Make timeline of story.

**Advanced Students:**
List responses to the question: how does a writer help you understand a character?

**Teacher Guides Students needing support:**
We analyze an actual event; list choices the person made, infer what trait(s) that showed and what the person learned. Then independently revisit the story and complete list for a different character in that story.

**INDEPENDENT Advanced:**
Options:
> Write a reflection that the central character might have written—what I learned.
> Write the next part of the story, showing that the character learned an important lesson.
> Act out an important part of the story.

**Class Synthesis:**
Whole class dialogue:
How does a writer help you understand a character in a story?