

Describing Characters

S.O.S. page

CCSS

RL.3.3: Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

Theme: *Curious Characters*

Characters are the people or animals in a story. When you read a story, think about what the characters say and do, and why. Just like real people, characters have feelings. They also have **traits**, or special qualities, such as courage, pride, cheerfulness, or honesty.

Following the **sequence**, or the order of events, in a story can help you understand how the characters' actions make one event lead to another.



Circle the parts of the cartoon that help you understand more about the giant, such as how this character feels, what he is like, and why he does what he does.

Now look at the chart below to see how details can help you understand what a character is like and how a character's words and actions lead the story forward.

What the Giant Does	What the Giant Says	What the Giant Is Like	How the Giant Moves the Story Forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He smiles. • He lifts the climbers over the mountain. 	"I'll be here when you want to go home."	The giant is friendly and helpful.	Because the giant is friendly, he helps the climbers get over the mountain.

Good readers use details from the story to understand the reasons that characters act and speak as they do. They can use this information to figure out how the characters' actions contribute to the sequence of events.

Connecting Words and Pictures

CCSS

RL.3.7: Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting).

Theme: *Stories That Amaze*

The **pictures** that go with a story can show you how the **characters** feel and what the **setting** looks like. The words and pictures in a story also create the **mood**, or the feeling a story gives you. Stories can have all kinds of moods: happy, sad, excited, bored, calm, spooky, silly, and so on.

The picture below shows a girl and a boy walking through the woods. They can hear wolves howling, owls hooting, and bats screeching.



What feeling do you get from the picture and the words that describe it?

Look at the chart below to see how pictures and words work together in a story.

	Characters	Setting	Mood
Picture	The children look worried.	The woods look dark and dangerous.	spooky
Words	They are hearing animal sounds.	Wolves, owls, and bats are making sounds.	

How would the mood of this story be different if the picture showed the children laughing and the woods full of sunlight? The mood would be happy instead of spooky.

Pictures in stories give information about mood, setting, and what characters think and feel. Good readers pay attention to both pictures and words as they read.