



Character Assimilation: A writing lesson

Objectives

- Students will write a paragraph about a character from a book, either fiction or nonfiction.
- Students will develop vocabulary for describing specific character traits.

Materials

- List on the board of brainstormed personality traits
- Handout of personality traits
- Sample paragraph about a book character with positive personality traits (both print out for posting, and handout for students)
- Editing checklist

Lesson Plan

- 1 Teacher asks students, "How would you describe yourself?"
- 2 Teacher takes several volunteers, giving each student a chance to respond to a question.
- 3 Responses are recorded on the board with words that describe personality/character traits noted.
- 4 Teacher reads a couple of short descriptions about a character, and students identify the most appropriate character trait.
- 5 Students are prompted to think about a book they have read recently, whose main character they would like to meet in real life. Take a moment to think about that character's personality traits, and how they shape their opinions about the individual.
- 6 Review teacher's paragraph about one of my favorite charac-

ters, stressing the words in boldface, such as "sense of humor," "loyal," "brave," "grateful" and "appreciative."

- 7 Students write a paragraph about their own character from a book they have read. (Remind them to use editing checklist before handing in their work).
- 8 At the end of the session, teacher will call on several students (time permitting) to read their paragraphs, and classmates will identify personality traits.

