Name:	Date:

Literary Analysis: Character and Characterization

Practice

A character is a person or an animal that takes part in the action of a literary work. A writer uses **characterization** to show what a character is like.

- **Direct characterization:** The writer tells you what the character is like. For example, the writer might say that the character is "mean" or "tall."

- **Indirect characterization:** The writer gives you clues about the character. For example, the writer tells you what the character does and says and shows how others react to the character. Using these clues, you form an idea of the character.

Clues	What Scrooge Is Like
Scrooge did not visit family on holidays. He stayed home and counted his money.	Scrooge is greedy and does not have warm feelings toward others.

A **Write *Direct* for each item that uses mainly direct characterization. Write *Indirect* for eachitem that uses mainly indirect characterization.**

1. _____ Evan has a good sense of humor.

2. _____ When Mai heard that Beth had been elected, she said, "Isn't that nice? I hope being president is good enough for Little Miss Perfect."

3. _____ Martha said that Janine was mean to her.

B **Following are two examples of indirect characterization. Underline two clues that show what each character is like. Then, use the clues to describe the character directly.**

1. **Roberto:** "Roberto has arrived," said Roberto loudly, stepping onto the basket ball court. He handed his jacket to Rodney, the friend who followed him everywhere. Roberto was wearing a top-brand sports shirt. He flexed his arm muscles so that others could admire them. The other players looked at each other nervously.

   What Roberto is like: _____

2. **Paula:** When Paula came over, Susan and Janet were sitting around being bored. Paula called the museum to find out what the hours were. Then, she found the bus schedule and got Susan and Janet out the door.

   What Paula is like: _____

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Assess

A **Write *Direct* for each item that uses mainly direct characterization. Write *Indirect* for each item that uses mainly indirect characterization.**

1. _____ Jessica is generous and shares many things with her friends.

2. _____ When Sam said, "I scored three touchdowns last game," Sid said, "I can beat that." When Eleanor said, "I got an 87 in Math," Sid said, "I can beat that."

3. _____ Many people think Sara is very smart. I heard one person say that Sara might be a genius.

4. _____ Most of the time, Emily is cheerful and talks a lot. Every now and then, though, she gets in a quiet mood and does not say much.

5. _____ When Brian heard that the storm was coming, he ran outside and brought his little brother and sister back into the house.

B **Following is an example of indirect characterization. Underline two of the clues that show what the character is like. Then, use the clues to describe the character directly.**

Jack: When Jack came home, his sister asked whether he had stopped to pick up milk. She suspected that, as usual, Jack had gotten distracted and had forgotten all about it.

"I tried, Sis, really, but the police wouldn't let me through to the store."

"Police!" she said.

"Sure," said Jack. "A tiger escaped from the zoo, and the police are out warning people."

"Jack," said his sister, "you aren't telling me one of your stories, by any chance?"

What Jack is like: _____