Directions: When it comes to AP Analysis, it is important to look at diction, syntax, imagery and CHARACTERIZATION. Below is some notes and elements of writing that will help with characterization…

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**Characterization** is the process by which the writer reveals the personality of a character. It can be direct or indirect. Realize every character an author makes has a purpose in the story. It is important to consider who these characters are.

* ***Direct Characterization*** tells the audience what the personality of the character is.

Example: “The patient boy and quite girl were both well mannered and did not disobey their mother.”

Explanation: The author is directly telling the audience the personality of these two children, especially by using adjectives. The boy is “patient” and the girl is “quiet.”

* ***Indirect Characterization*** shows things that reveal the personality of a character. There are five different methods of indirect characterization:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Speech | What does the character say? How does the character speak?  |
| Thoughts | What is revealed through the character’s private thoughts and feelings? |
| Effects on others towards the character | What is revealed through the character’s effect and interaction with other people? How do other characters feel or behave in reaction to the character? |
| Actions | What does the character do? How does the character behave? |
| Looks | What does the character look like? How does the character dress? |

Activity: Take a few minutes to consider a character from *The Handmaid’s Tale*. Fill out the chart for that character below, and then we will discuss…**Character:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Speech |  |
| Thoughts |  |
| Effects on others towards the character |  |
| Actions |  |
| Looks |  |

*What else can show characterization?*