

The Kite Runner Novel Unit

Name:

Date:

Characterization

What is characterization?

Exploring Characterization: Writing a Character Sketch

A character sketch is a short piece of writing that describes the many traits of a character. Character sketches do not only describe the physical appearance of a character, but also the personality, background and likes and dislikes of a character.

Sample Character Sketch

Selma Justinski is twenty-seven years old and has lived in The Bronx all her life. She has never traveled beyond the city of New York and spends most of her time flipping through travel magazines in her mother's dry cleaning shop. Her family has owned "Justinski Cleaners" for over thirty years. Selma grew up working in the shop and her mother expects her to take over the business when she retires.

Although Selma eats too many potato chips, she is incredibly thin. She has deep brown eyes and short shiny brown hair that frames a different pair of colorful earrings each day. At only 5 feet tall, Selma regularly gets mistaken for a much younger girl – much to her annoyance. Selma tries to look older by wearing heavy black eyeliner and lipstick.

She enjoys salsa dancing. She attends a weekly class and spends her weekend nights at clubs in the city. It is her only escape from her mother, who strongly disapproves of Selma's salsa. Selma does not have a boyfriend, but idolizes a man she sees regularly at the salsa clubs. She has not talked to him after six months.

Selma Justinski rarely complains and tries to avoid all confrontation. She works in her mother's shop six days of the week, dances on the weekends and dreams of traveling the world. She is pretty certain there she could be doing more with her life, but does not want to upset her family. She knows that things could be worse.

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Assignment: Using the sample as a guide, write a character sketch about a character from the novel The Kite Runner.

Character Name: _____

Step One: Plan your paragraph by finding four details from the novel you can use in your sketch

Paragraph One: Describe the family background of the character

Detail from the novel	Detail from the novel
Detail from the novel	Detail from the novel

Paragraph Two: Describe the physical appearance of the character

Detail from the novel	Detail from the novel
Detail from the novel	Detail from the novel

Paragraph Three: Describe the characters like and dislikes

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Detail from the novel	Detail from the novel
Detail from the novel	Detail from the novel

Paragraph Four: Describe the characters personality.

Detail from the novel	Detail from the novel
Detail from the novel	Detail from the novel

Step Two: Write your character sketch on a separate piece of paper. Check your sketch for grammar, spelling and punctuation errors.

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Assignment Rubric

Category	5	3	1	0
Paragraph One	The paragraph is at least four sentences and uses at least four details from the novel.	The paragraph three sentences and uses three details from the novel.	The paragraph is one or two sentences and uses one or two details from the novel.	The paragraph is missing.
Paragraph Two	The paragraph is at least four sentences and uses at least four details from the novel.	The paragraph three sentences and uses three details from the novel.	The paragraph is one or two sentences and uses one or two details from the novel.	The paragraph is missing.
Paragraph Three	The paragraph is at least four sentences and uses at least four details from the novel.	The paragraph three sentences and uses three details from the novel.	The paragraph is one or two sentences and uses one or two details from the novel.	The paragraph is missing.
Paragraph Four	The paragraph is at least four sentences and uses at least four details from the novel.	The paragraph three sentences and uses three details from the novel.	The paragraph is one or two sentences and uses one or two details from the novel.	The paragraph is missing.
Spelling, grammar, punctuation.	The sketch contains no spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors.	The sketch contains one – three spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors.	The sketch contains four to six spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors.	The sketch contains over seven spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors.

Teacher comments: