



Task Shell Example 6—Analyzing Literary Texts —Character Study



Name _____

Date _____

Every story character has a personality and character traits. We learn about characters by what they say, think, and do, and by how other characters interact with them. Sometimes authors use events or problems in the story to show how characters can change.

Read _____. Then write a response that describes one character's traits at the beginning of the story. Also tell why or how this character changes attitude and actions by the end of the story. Use specific details from the story to support your opinion and analysis.

Use the notes from your graphic organizer to help you plan and write your response.

Be sure to

1. Have an introduction that sets the context. Include the title, the author, and two or three sentences describing key events in the story.
2. Have a focus that describes one character's traits at the beginning of the story.
3. Have body paragraphs with topic sentences and details to support each example you use to explain why you think this character changed during the story.
4. Use details from the text and descriptive words to elaborate on and explain your thinking.
5. Use simple and compound sentences.
6. Use transitional words to connect your ideas.
7. End with a conclusion that connects to your focus or tells a lesson learned by the character.
8. Use correct punctuation and spelling.

Source: Adapted from NYC Schools Performance Assessment Pilot—Grade 4 Opinion Writing (2010).



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