

Characters You Should Know

Name _____

Date _____ Period _____

PART I - Directions: Read the following brief descriptions of memorable characters in literature. Highlight or underline any character trait words mentioned.

Example: **Tom Sawyer** *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, by Mark Twain

Tom is a young boy who lives with his aunt Polly and brother Sid in a small town on the Mississippi River. Clever and adventurous, Tom and his friend, Huckleberry Finn, get into one scrape after another in the days of the Old South.

1. **Alice** from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, by Lewis Carroll

Alice, an impressionable young girl, falls down a rabbit hole into Wonderland, where she has many strange and fantastic adventures. Her curiosity often gets her into trouble.

2. **Charlie** from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, by Roald Dahl

Charlie Bucket is a poor, quiet boy. He and four other children win the privilege of being shown around the mysterious Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory. He is very concerned about the other children, both before and after they are removed from the factory. He is wise in a small way, although excitable and good-humored.

3. **Claudia** from *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, by E. L. Konigsburg

When Claudia Kincaid is sick of being told what to do at home, her independence leads her to run away from home to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Her brother, Jamie, joins her on an adventure that leads them to the home of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. Claudia, full of spunk and vitality, proves courageous and strong as she unravels a mystery.

4. **Encyclopedia Brown** from *Encyclopedia Brown* series, by Donald J. Sobol

Leroy Brown, nicknamed Encyclopedia, is a quick-witted boy who can solve any mystery. He and his father, the chief of police of Idaville, try to crack hard cases together. Being bright and resourceful helps Encyclopedia Brown detect flaws in a culprit's story; he never loses a case or misses a clue.

5. **Fudge** from *Superfudge*, by Judy Blume

Farley Drexel Hatcher, also called Fudge, first appeared in *Tales of a Fourth-Grade Nothing*. His brother, Peter, would say that Fudge is the biggest pain ever invented. He is also messy, precocious, and very funny.

6. **Hans Brinker** from *Hans Brinker, or, The Silver Skates*, by Mary Mapes Dodge

In this story set among the canals and windmills of Holland, Hans Brinker's father becomes desperately ill from an accident, leaving the family unable to make ends meet. Hans and his sister, Gretel, enter a skating competition to earn money. Hans's determination and cleverness allows him to help his family.

7. **Harriet** *Harriet, the Spy*, by Louise Fitzhugh

Harriet M. Welch, age 11, is an insightful girl who wants to see and know everything in her quest to become a famous writer. She is very diligent in her pursuit of information. Notebook in hand, she spies on her friends. When her notes accidentally fall into her friends' hands, Harriet learns an important lesson.

8. **Homer Price** from *Homer Price* series, by Robert McCloskey

Homer Price lives in Centerburg, a small midwestern town. Inquisitive and friendly, he has a knack for getting himself into humorous and zany situations.

9. **Madeline** from the *Madeline* series, by Ludwig Bemelmans

Madeline is a 6-year-old girl who attends boarding school in Paris. An individualist, she is the envy of her eleven classmates, for she is both the bravest and the naughtiest of all the girls.

10. **Pippi** from *Pippi Longstocking*, by Astrid Lindgren

Pippilotta Provisionia Gaberdina Dandeliona Ephraimsdaughter Longstocking is a 9-year-old who lives in Villa Villekulla with her purple spotted horse and other animal friends as a result of her father's being lost at sea. Carrot-haired Pippi is a little impetuous, very inventive, and always optimistic. These qualities often lead her and her two neighbors into fantastic adventures.

PART II - Directions: Choose ten character trait words from the ones you highlighted or underlined above. Write them below, and then write an antonym for each one.

Examples: clever :: dumb
adventurous :: timid

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.