**Characterization Notes**

1. **Static vs. Dynamic Characters**
	1. Characters experience varying amounts of change over the course of a story. Two types of characters are
* **Static characters** that do not experience basic character changes during the course of the story.
* **Dynamic characters** that experience changes throughout the plot of a story. Although the change may be sudden, it is expected based on the story’s events. A story’s characters fall within a range—from very static characters that experience no change to very dynamic characters that undergo one or more major changes.

**In The Outsiders, static characters could include: Bob, Marcia, and Steve. Dynamic characters include Johnny, Ponyboy, and Dally.**

Think of another book you’ve read lately. Which character in that book was a dynamic character? How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**2. Direct vs. Indirect Characterization**

Think about your best friend for a minute and think of everything you know about him. How many brothers and sisters he has, where he lives, what his favorite movie is, and what his personality is like. Some of these things you know because your friend told you. Some of these things you know because of how he acts and the things he's done. It's the same in literature.

* **Sometimes we know things about characters because the author tells us. This is called direct characterization.**
* **Other times, we figure things out for ourselves based on what a character thinks, says or does. This is indirect characterization.**

In 'The Outsiders,' S. E. Hinton used both forms of characterization to help us understand the relationships between the characters, the conflict, and the theme.

**Practice identifying direct vs. indirect characterization here:**

**1. “I know the answer!” Maya shouted at her friend. “I’m not stupid!”**

Maya is: unfriendly conceited shy oversensitive Circle: DIRECT or INDIRECT

**2. Sarah whispered to Beth, “Cara looks like a strong gust of wind might blow her away.”**

Cara is: resourceful unhappy small brilliant Circle: DIRECT or INDIRECT

**3. When he saw his baby brother sniffling in a corner, Cal patted the seat next to him. “Wanna play?”**

Cal is: sheepish nervous lonely sympathetic Circle: DIRECT INDIRECT

**4. Too lazy to actually reach for it, Marty just stared wishfully at the TV remote.**

Marty is: confused eager inactive restless Circle: DIRECT INDIRECT

Create a new character to insert into The Outsiders. He/she can be a Greaser or a Soc. Pick one overall personality trait that summarizes your character. Then come up with examples of things your character would say, do, think and feel AND how other characters would react to your character. Is he/she well liked? Or is he/she a villain?