

# Characterization:

Creation of imaginary persons in a work  
so they seem lifelike

In many works of literature, the key to an understanding of theme lies in an understanding of the characters the author presents. One way to understand characters is to develop a "Character Bone Structure." By analyzing a character's physiology, sociology, and psychology, you can define both the character and how he/she help develop the theme. It is also a good way to define your characters when you write creatively.

**Your mission:** For each of the numbered items below, fill in the required information. Then list a quote from the text (unless you are defining your own character) and the page number on which it is found.

## CHARACTER BONE STRUCTURE

**PHYSIOLOGY** [This helps your description concerning the character's appearance and outward attitude.]

1. Sex
2. Age
3. Height and weight
4. Color of eyes, hair, and skin
5. Posture
6. Appearance (Dress)
7. Defects
8. Heredity

**SOCIOLOGY** [This includes the character's home location, type of job, family life, wealth (amount of money), and how free time is spent].

9. Class
10. Occupation
11. Education
12. Home life (who runs the house or supports the family through work and leadership?)
13. Religion
14. Place in the community (Is this person liked or disliked in his/her home arena?)
15. Political ambitions
16. Amusements, hobbies

**PSYCHOLOGY** [This includes how a character acts because of attitude. Please attempt to describe the mental state of the character. Try to offer reasons for character's actions due to attitude].

17. Moral standards
18. Personal ambitions
19. Frustrations (disappointments, both big and small)
20. Temperament (Is this character mild-mannered or hostile? When a character comes in contact with different persons, how do they respond? Does the character act differently around different people?)
21. Attitude toward life
22. Complexes (Are there any mental problems which cause him/her to act in any particular manner?)
23. Extrovert, Introvert, Ambivert (Is the character outgoing and social, keeps to him/herself and doesn't mix with other people? Can he/she be described at one time as moody and aloof while at other times as outgoing and social?)
24. I.Q.

**Note: Many times, the author will not literally give us this information; we must infer it from what is said (or not said) in the text. Some will require you to make a conclusion !**