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**Practicing for Success: STAAR
Reading Language Arts
Grade 5**

This sample includes the following:

Student Book pages (8 pages)

- Cover and Table of Contents
- Guided Practice pages
- Partner Practice pages
- Independent Practice pages

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Grade

5

Practicing for Success



STAAR[®]

Student Book

**UPDATED
for the
STAAR
REDESIGN**



Reading Language Arts

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Characters Influence the Theme

Lesson Focus

I can describe and compare characters by breaking down how they act, talk, think, and feel about a situation or conflict.

1. What is an example of a conflict a character may face in a story?

Understanding Characters and Theme

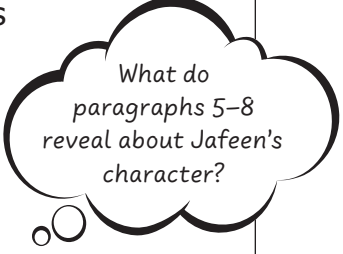
1. Identify the characters in the story. What is the point of view?
2. Underline the conflict in the story.
3. Annotate how the characters are acting, speaking, and thinking.
4. To determine the theme, ask yourself, "How does the character grow or change?"
5. Using evidence, predict how the character(s) will respond to situations.

Guided Practice

Pay attention to the steps your teacher takes as they describe and compare characters by breaking down how they react to situations.

What Really Matters

- 1 I was more embarrassed than I had ever been before. It was my first day in a new school, and already my mom had completely ruined it by coming to the school. Not only had she come into the school, but she was also wearing that stupid sweater and those ridiculous jeans. How could she do that to me? Didn't she know that I was nervous enough about starting in a new school? This was so unfair! I sat miserably in the cafeteria. Nobody came near me, and it was easy to see why: Everyone was probably already laughing at me.
- 2 Just when I thought things couldn't get any more humiliating, a girl came up to me and said, "You're new here, aren't you?"
- 3 "Yeah," I murmured. "I am."
- 4 "I didn't think I recognized you when I saw you in math class before. I'm Jafeen, by the way."
- 5 "I'm Naomi," I responded, almost in disbelief. This girl was actually talking to me! After a moment of stunned silence and with a shaky voice, I haltingly invited Jafeen to sit down.
- 6 Jafeen plopped down at the table and then continued, "I saw you in the hall just now, too. Was that your mom with you?"
- 7 I cringed with embarrassment at that question. Of all the things Jafeen could have noticed, it had to be that. Unable to say anything, I just nodded.
- 8 "You're so amazingly lucky," Jafeen responded. "My mom doesn't even live with me. I haven't talked to her in forever."



What do paragraphs 5–8 reveal about Jafeen's character?

Characters Influence the Theme

Directions: Use the text on page 18 to answer the questions.

- 1** The first-person point of view in the story helps the reader understand—
 - A** Jafeen’s thoughts and feelings
 - B** all the characters’ thoughts and feelings
 - C** the narrator’s thoughts and feelings
 - D** the author’s thoughts and feelings

- 2** Based on the events in the story, what is Naomi most likely to do next?
 - A** Naomi will decide not to be friends with Jafeen anymore.
 - B** Naomi will think more positively about her own mother.
 - C** Naomi will tell Jafeen that she does not see her own mother often either.
 - D** Naomi will feel even angrier about her mother embarrassing her.

- 3** Read the sentence from paragraph 5.

After a moment of stunned silence and with a shaking voice, I haltingly invited Jafeen to sit down.

This sentence shows that the narrator is—

- A** unsure if Jafeen is being friendly or not
 - B** excited to be making a new friend
 - C** wishing Jafeen would leave her to herself and her negative thoughts
 - D** determined to prove that she is cooler than she appears
-
- 4** What is the main theme of the story?
 - A** Treat people kindly to make friends.
 - B** Try to find solutions to your problems.
 - C** Think about others before drawing conclusions.
 - D** People have different viewpoints.

Characters Influence the Theme

Partner Practice

Directions: Read the poem “On the Beach at Night” with a partner. As you read together, practice the steps modeled by your teacher during the Guided Practice.

On the Beach at Night

On the beach at night,
Stands a child with her father,
Watching the east, the autumn sky.
Up through the darkness,

5 While ravening clouds—burial clouds—in black
masses spreading,
Lower sullen and fast across and down the sky.
Amid a transparent clear band of ether yet left in the east,
Ascends large and calm the lord-star Jupiter,
And near at hand, only a very little above,

10 Swim the delicate sisters the Pleiades.
From the beach the child holding the hand of her father,
Those burial clouds that lower victorious soon to devour all,
Watching, silently weeps.
Weep not, child! Weep not, my darling!

15 With these kisses let me remove your tears.
The ravening clouds shall not long be victorious.
They shall not long possess the sky;
they devour the stars only in apparition.
Jupiter shall emerge, be patient, watch again another night,
the Pleiades shall emerge.
They are immortal! All those stars both silvery and golden
shall shine out again.

20 The great stars and the little ones shall shine out again;
they endure.
The vast immortal sun and the long-enduring pensive moon
shall again shine.

Who are the
characters?

What is the
conflict, or problem,
in the story?

How does the
father react to
the conflict?

What do you think
will happen next
time it rains?

Characters Influence the Theme Partner Practice

Directions: Use the text on page 20 to answer the questions.

- 1 Read line 16 from the poem.

The ravening clouds shall not long be victorious.

This line shows the father believes—

- A crying is waste of time
 - B crying will make the rain worse
 - C the rain will stop soon
 - D the clouds will take over the sky
- 2 Based on the events in the poem, what will the girl most likely do next?
- A She will stop crying and trust her father.
 - B She will continue to be unhappy.
 - C She will see the moon and stars.
 - D She will ask to go home out of the rain.
- 3 The third-person point of view of the narrative poem helps the reader understand—
- A the child's thoughts and feelings
 - B the speaker's thoughts and feelings
 - C all the characters' thoughts and feelings
 - D the father's thoughts and feelings
- 4 What is the main theme of the poem?
- A Sleep is important for good health.
 - B Children should be grateful for what they have.
 - C Stay alert when the weather is bad.
 - D Difficult times will not last long.

Characters Influence the Theme

Independent Practice

Directions: Read the story “The Write Thing” independently. As you read, practice the steps from the Understanding Characters and Theme section on page 18.

The Write Thing

- 1 Shawn and his class were working on a new assignment. They were writing persuasive essays. Mr. Matthews told the class about the assignment Monday morning.
- 2 “This is going to be awful,” Shawn sighed. “I never know what to write about. How can I persuade someone of something I don’t care about?”
- 3 After giving the class their directions for planning their essays, Mr. Matthews asked Shawn to join him at the group table. He also invited Francesca. “Try writing about something important to you,” Mr. Matthews said.
- 4 Shawn thought for a moment. “I don’t know.”
- 5 Mr. Matthews chuckled. He scratched his beard, thinking. “Hey, didn’t I see you trying out for the football team yesterday, Shawn?”
- 6 “Yeah, so?” He did not understand what football tryouts had to do with writing a persuasive essay.
- 7 “He’s trying to tell you that that is the topic you should write about,” Francesca grumbled, rolling her eyes.
- 8 “Um...yeah. Okay.” Shawn smiled.
- 9 Mr. Matthews suggested that Shawn list the strongest and best reasons he could think of that would convince people that he should be on the team. When Shawn had listed his reasons, he was ready to start writing.
- 10 Mr. Matthews turned to Francesca. “Okay, Francesca, what are you passionate about?”
- 11 “Being at home in bed,” she mumbled. Then, for dramatic effect, she yawned.
- 12 Mr. Matthews scratched his beard again. “Well, what about writing about how important sleep is for kids?”
- 13 Francesca looked up at Mr. Matthews for the first time. There was a glint of interest in her eyes. Then she shrugged. “I guess.”
- 14 Mr. Matthews beamed. He walked her through the same steps as Shawn.

Characters Influence the Theme

Independent Practice

Directions: Use the text on page 26 to answer the questions.

- 1** The third-person point of view in the story helps the reader understand—
 - A** Francesca’s thoughts and feelings
 - B** Mr. Matthew’s thoughts and feelings
 - C** Shawn’s thoughts and feelings
 - D** all of the characters’ thoughts and feelings

- 2** Based on the events in the story, what is Francesca most likely to do next?
 - A** Francesca will write about Shawn trying out for the football team.
 - B** Francesca will not take Mr. Matthews’s advice about writing.
 - C** Francesca will take a nap during class and forget to write.
 - D** Francesca will write about the importance of sleep.

- 3** What is the main theme of the story?
 - A** Your own life can inspire you.
 - B** Practice good habits every day.
 - C** Sleep well before a big day.
 - D** Think ideas through before acting.

- 4** Read the question carefully. Then, record your answer on the lines provided. Based on what you read, how does Francesca feel about Mr. Matthews’s idea? Use evidence from the text to support your response.
