

Characters and Their Character

Level: Intermediate Elementary School

Time to complete: This project can be divided into two days, with the warm-up discussion and reading activity on the first day and the discussion and presentation on the second day.

Warm-up Discussion

The teacher explains that we all have different characteristics. S/he writes some characteristics on the board and posts a picture next to each of them to demonstrate what the characteristic means. A PowerPoint presentation is also suitable for this lesson. Ideas of characteristics to use include:

Honest
Funny
Trustworthy
Joyful
Artistic
Musical
Mathematician
Reader

Writer

The teacher then asks each student to say which characteristic describes him or her the best.

Reading Activity

The students will be assigned to read *How to Make an Apple Pie and See The World* by Marjorie Priceman. They will have class time to read the story, and then they will be divided into reading groups. In the reading groups, they will work to answer the following questions:

1. Who are some of the characters in the book?
2. Who is your favorite character? Why?
3. Who is your least favorite character? Why?
4. What makes those characters people who you like or who you don't like?
5. What characteristics from the board best describe those characters?

Students can be put into groups based on their reading levels.

Large Group Discussion

Either the next day or later on in the day, depending upon the allotted time and the preferences of the teacher, a large group discussion will ensue in which the following questions are asked:

1. Who are some of the characters in the book?
2. Who is your favorite character? Why?
3. Where is that character from?
4. What makes that character someone who you like?
5. What characteristics from the board describe that character?

6. What is that characters culture like?

The teacher should focus on two or three characters who are liked by the majority of the class.

Presentations

The students will have time in class to make a presentation about their favorite character; however, they will be able to choose any medium that they wish to show the character and his or her culture. Students will be encouraged to make a model, draw a picture, use the computer to create an image, etc. The teacher may decide if s/he wants the students to display their finished products around the classroom or to orally present them to the rest of the class. The former option may be more suitable for a class with ESL students.