

What a Character!

In order to give depth to a story and increase reader involvement, authors use characterization, which means they provide details that describe a character and make that character seem more real. Characterization can include physical descriptions, such as “has blue eyes”; “has long, brown hair”; “is tall”; and “wears hats.” It can also include personality traits such as “mean,” “generous,” “happy,” “kind,” and “short tempered.” Characterization even describes skills, habits, and the person’s strengths and weaknesses. This could include such descriptions as “steals,” “fights often,” “speed-reads,” “has nervous twitches,” “is an insomniac,” and/or “speaks well in public.”

The examples given above are only a few of the almost endless character descriptions that an author may use to bring his characters to life for the reader. Remember, anything that identifies a character’s appearance, feelings, personality, or actions could be called characterization.

Complete the following chart about the characters from *Holes*.

Character (real name)	Nickname	Description
Stanley		
Mr. Pendanski		
	The Warden	
	X-Ray	
	Armpit	
	Squid	
	Magnet	
	Zigzag	
	Zero	