

The word "Characterization" is written in a large, bold, black sans-serif font, centered on a sheet of lined paper. The paper is part of a larger illustration of a desk with a spiral notebook on the right, a pencil at the bottom, and a pencil sharpener on the left. The background is a light wood-grain texture.



This icon indicates that the slide contains activities created in Flash. These activities are not editable.



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## College and Career Readiness Standards for Reading:

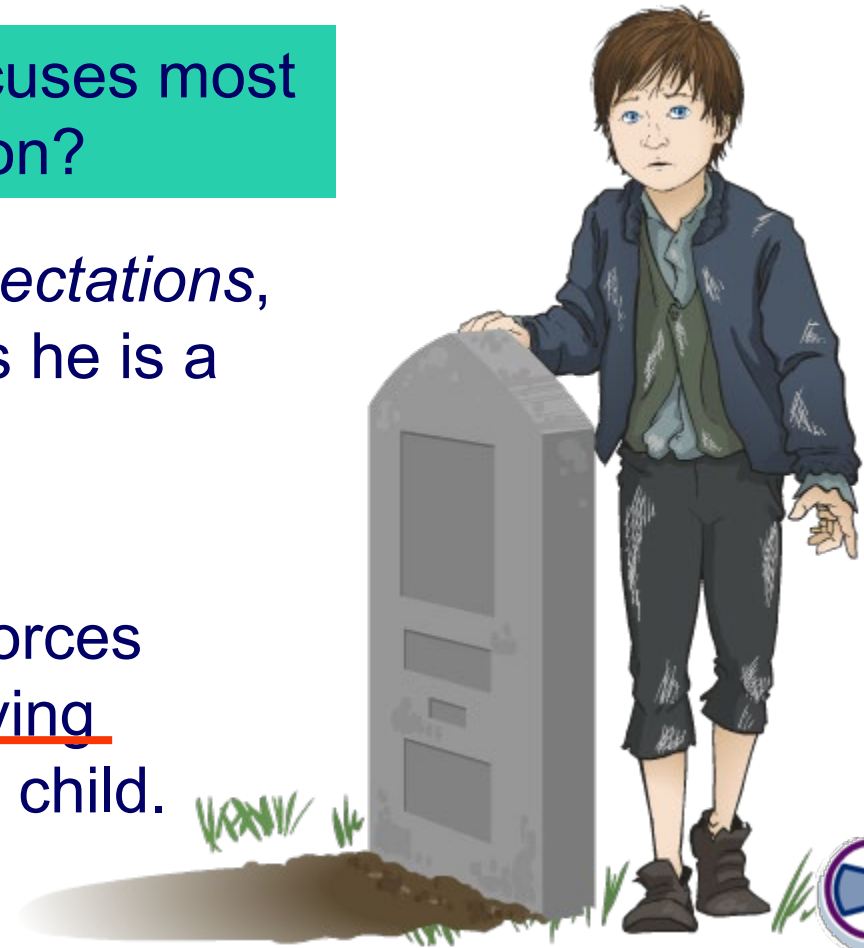
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.



**Characterization** is the way that characters are developed by an author. When analyzing a text, it is important to think of characters as creations of the author rather than real people.

Which of these statements focuses most successfully on characterization?

- In the opening of *Great Expectations*, Pip is afraid of Magwitch, as he is a young boy.
- In the opening of *Great Expectations*, Dickens reinforces Pip's vulnerability by portraying him as a weak, defenseless child.



# Character study



# External factors and character



Character **motivation** explores **why** a character acts a certain way. Motivation can include:

- the ideals, hopes and dreams of the character
- the character's thoughts and feelings.

The writer has to decide whether to reveal motivation using external factors, such as the way the character appears and behaves, or by revealing what is going on inside the character's mind.



# Analyzing motivations



There are two main techniques that an author can use to reveal character motivation.

The use of a **first person narrator** allows the author to reveal the thoughts and feelings of the central character as they tell the story. An **interior monologue** is often used to show the reader what is going on in a character's mind at a particular moment.

When writing in the **third person**, an **omniscient narrator** is able to understand the motivation of all of the characters, and therefore explain their thoughts and feelings. **Free indirect style** can be used to give the impression of hearing a character's thoughts.





# Key terms





Relationships with other characters can often give us insight into character motivation.



- Power relationships – are they equal or unequal?
- What is the character's social or cultural status compared to other characters?
- How do they behave toward other characters? Does this change based on which character they are talking to?
- What do other characters say to them?
- What do other characters say about them?



# Direct speech





Our final focus is considering characterization within the context of the novel as a whole.

Key points to consider:

- Does the character develop during the novel (often referred to as a **round character**) or do they stay the same (often referred to as a **flat character**)?
- Is there a link between the character and the genre of the text – for example, is the character tragic?
- Are there important social/cultural/historical factors that influence the way the author shapes this character? Do they represent a stereotype?

