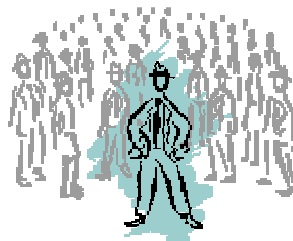


Creating Characters

by
Pat Seward

1. Select a picture of a character.
2. Give the character a name. Look through a phone book and pick a first name from one listing and pick a last name from another listing. (Business names might be interesting.)
3. Describe the physical features of your character.
Include:
 - Height
 - Weight
 - Facial features
 - Dental history
 - Distinguishing marks
 - Walk
 - Interesting mannerisms
 - Body build
 - Hair color and texture – if any
 - Hands & feet
 - Voice
 - Overall health
4. What is this character's favorite
 - Color
 - Food
 - Car
 - Place
 - Hobby
 - Pet
 - Activity
 - Song
 - Team
5. Describe your character's occupation. How successful is your character?
6. Tell one of your character's secrets. (Remember, we are in school. Keep the audience in mind.)
7. Your character's greatest accomplishment is _____.
8. If your character could go anyplace in the world, where would he or she go? Why?
9. What are this character's goals for the future?
10. This character is best known for _____.



Creating Characters – Part II

1. Introduce your character to another character in the class. (Partner activity)
2. Review the rules of punctuation for writing dialogue.
3. Work with your partner and create a conversation between the two new characters. You must have at least 10 exchanges.
4. Before you write, describe the setting. Where is this conversation taking place?
5. Did the two go there together? Did they bump into each other? Do they know each other?
6. What event caused them to have this conversation? In other words, create a reason for them to talk.
7. Add information that describes how the characters say the lines. Include posture, facial expressions, tone of voice, and movement. This is a dialogue like you would find in a short story. You must include the information as the narrative moves along. These are **not** stage directions.
8. Present your selection orally to the class.