

Talking about Literary Characters

- Compare the terms on the left with those on the right. Look up words you do not know.
- Decide which of these describe you best. Use a pencil and mark the appropriate boxes. Then connect the boxes and draw a curve.
- Now think of character [A] and character [B]. Use blue for [A] and red for [B].
- First decide which of these terms describe [A] best and tick the appropriate boxes.
- Then do the same for [B] using red.
- Connect the boxes so that you get a curve for both [A] and [B].
- When you interpret these curves use linking phrases such as “while”, “on the one hand...” etc.
- Base your argument on [the literary work] and remind your audience of the narrative.

Character Traits and Social Roles*

	↔↔	↔	↔	↔	↔↔	
artistic						scientific [-'--]
civil, civilised						primitive ['---]
clever with words						inarticulate [--'--]
sympathetic (!)						hard-hearted
[-'---] cooperative						competitive [-'---]
conciliatory						forceful
diplomatic						impolite
creative						factual
a follower						a leader
helpless						resourceful
a homemaker						breadwinner
idealistic						realistic
[-'---] irrational						rational ['---]
cautious, scheming						openly brutal
natural						cultured
non-violent						violent
passive						active
restrained						impulsive [-'--]
outgoing						unsociable, solitary
soft, sensitive						tough, insensitive
talkative						quiet
a victim						an aggressor
weak						strong

*After a [similar list](#) at [British Council](#)

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