

Character Sketch

A **character sketch** is a short piece of writing describing a person, esp. in terms of personality traits and behaviour patterns.

My Friend Liz

My friend Liz is the most amazing friend anybody could ask for. We've been through so much together, we're basically like sisters. We met on the first day of school in sixth grade, both of us terrified by the massive size of the middle school. She had the locker right above mine. I told her I didn't know anybody in our class and she said "You do now." We've been friends ever since.

Most boys think Liz is cute. She has long red hair, cascading over her shoulders. She laughs about everything and when she does, you see about a hundred white teeth – so bright, you almost need sunglasses. When she laughs, her eyes grow wide, glowing emerald green. Liz likes to dress kind of skater-ish, in camouflage pants, sweatshirts, and wristbands. But, she's unpredictable, too. Sometimes she'll wear overalls or a fancy dress. She must have three closets full of clothes, because she barely ever wears the same outfit twice.

Liz is the most lively, animated character I've ever known. She's always rushing around, trying to get the latest scoop on everybody. It's like she's in the FBI. Right before she shares important news, Liz tosses back her hair, takes a deep breath, and quickly looks side to side, to be sure the coast is clear. She never says anything mean about people, she just wants to know what's going on.

She always supports me in everything I want to do. Not many girls in our group of friends play sports, but when I told Liz I wanted to go out for basketball, she said "Go for it." Now, she comes to see almost every game I play and cheer me on.

Not only is Liz a tremendous supporter, she also trusts me to give her my honest opinion and to say what I feel. Last year, she thought Mrs. Jones gave her a lower math grade than she deserved. I told her the truth – that Liz handed everything in late and what did she expect? Next marking period, Liz got her work in on time, and pulled off an A-. Thanks to me, she said. Liz is a wonderful listener. She lets me tell her all my problems and she never diminishes the importance of my worries. I can tell she's really listening, too, because she looks directly in my eyes the whole time, like she's trying to see inside my head and figure me out.

We don't always agree on everything, and sometimes we even fight like sisters. But, in the end, we always stick together.

What character traits can we tell about Liz?

Character Trait	How I know?

YOUR TURN!

Here is a list of words that can be used to describe the ways people feel or act sometimes:

SHY	ENTHUSIASTIC	DEPRESSED	SILLY
TROUBLED	GROUCHY	FEARFUL	VICIOUS
WILD	JOYOUS	HAPPY	ARROGANT
COMPASSIONATE	PROUD	MISERABLE	THOUGHTFUL
LONELY	SAD	RECKLESS	AFRAID
DISAPPOINTED	TORMENTED	ANGRY	DEFEATED
FRENZIED	VIOLENT	IMMATURE	EXCITED

Directions: Create a scene in which a character displays one of the following emotions.

Consider:

Who will your character be?

What will he or she be doing?

What has happened to him/her to make him/her feel this way?

To help you organize your character sketch, consider:

Physical Descriptions	Personality Traits	Likes/Dislikes

Success Criteria

- Written with proper grammar, punctuations, paragraphs
- Examples of actions and/or dialogue used to demonstrate character traits
- Descriptive language used to describe actions, settings, feelings
- Physical description included

My Friend Liz

Introduction Paragraph: The character is introduced. Character traits are not specifically identified, but some small details revealed.

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Physical characteristics given through descriptive language. Some details can reveal personality, but the focus is physical characteristics.

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Character Trait 1: Characteristic revealed through actions, thoughts, words (not told). Use descriptive language to show specific actions that reveal character traits.

Liz is the most lively, animated character I've ever known. She's always rushing around, trying to get the latest scoop on everybody. It's like she's in the FBI. Right before she shares important news, Liz tosses back her hair, takes a deep breath, and quickly looks side to side, to be sure the coast is clear. She never says anything mean about people, she just wants to know what's going on.

Character Trait 2: Characteristic revealed through actions, thoughts, words (not told). Use descriptive language to show specific actions that reveal character traits.

She always supports me in everything I want to do. Not many girls in our group of friends play sports, but when I told Liz I wanted to go out for basketball, she said “Go for it.” Now, she comes to see almost every game I play and cheer me on.

Character Trait 3: Characteristic revealed through actions, thoughts, words (not told). Use descriptive language to show specific actions that reveal character traits.

Not only is Liz a tremendous supporter, she also trusts me to give her my honest opinion and to say what I feel. Last year, she thought Mrs. Jones gave her a lower math grade than she deserved. I told her the truth – that Liz handed everything in late and what did she expect? Next marking period, Liz got her work in on time, and pulled off an A-. Thanks to me, she said. Liz is a wonderful listener. She lets me tell her all my problems and she never diminishes the importance of my worries. I can tell she’s really listening, too, because she looks directly in my eyes the whole time, like she’s trying to see inside my head and figure me out.

Concluding Paragraph

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