



Literary Element: *Character*

Name _____

A character is a person or animal in a story, play, or other literary work. In any story there can be main characters as well as supporting characters. Main characters are those directly involved in the action and plot of the story. In *The Outsiders*, Ponyboy is a main character. Supporting characters are those indirectly related to the story or those who do not have as large a part in the plot such as Sodapop.

There are five ways in which an author develops a character and reveals what he or she is like.

1. The writer states directly what the character is like.
2. The writer gives the actual speech of a character.
3. The writer reveals what the character is thinking or feeling
4. The writer tells about the character's actions.
5. The writer tells how other people respond to the character.

Consider how S.E. Hinton revealed the characters in *The Outsiders*. Look at the list of characters below. Next to each character, write the number 1-5 (based on the list above) that indicates how you think the character was revealed. Then, give an example from the book to support your choice.

Character	Number	Supporting Evidence
Ponyboy		
Sodapop		
Darry		
Johnny		
Dally		
Randy		
Bob		
Cherry		