Example of a characterization paragraph

Mama is a **static character** in the short story *“A Visit to Grandmother”,* written by Willliam Melvin Kelley. She is central to how the story develops. Mama is the mother of ten children including both Charles and GL. She is now a grandmother with old wrinkled skin and coarse white hair. She loves all of her children and tried to raise them the best she knew how. The author barely describes her physically because he is choosing to reveal her character entirely by her words and actions. For example, when mama is speaking to her son about being a good lawyer, she is very direct with him: “Trying ain’t enough! You be honest, you hear? The author shows the trait of sensitivity and caring indirectly when Mama starts to cry when Charles tells her it’s too late. Mama is a **static character** who is proud and loving and remains that way throughout the story. None of the actions in the story change’s the reader’s general positive impression of Mama.

Green – topic sentence (character’s name, type of character, *name of short story in italic*, author)

Purple – (character’s role, physical traits)

Grey – (beliefs, values, personality, how others see him/her)

Red – (words and actions)

Yellow – (specifics from the story)

Blue – Concluding sentence (type of character with a recap of he/she is this type)

* 1 quotation (dialogue)
* 10 sentences
* 1 linking word

<https://sites.google.com/a/independence.k12.ia.us/dan-putz/english-10/character-paragraph-short-story> - Adapted by Mme Lagrandeur

Example of a characterization paragraph

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Highlight (find) the following elements in the following paragraph.**

Green – topic sentence (character’s name, type of character, *name of short story in italic*, author)

Purple – (character’s role, physical traits)

Grey – (beliefs, values, personality, how others see him/her)

Red – (words and actions)

Yellow – (specifics from the story)

Blue – Concluding sentence (type of character with a recap of he/she is this type)

* \_\_\_\_ quotation(s) or dialogue
* \_\_\_\_ sentences
* \_\_\_\_ linking word (s)

In the short story *Lamb to the Slaughter*, written by Roald Dahl, Mary Maloney is the sole round character but is also a dynamic one. She appears real which make the readers more focused on her. Even though there is very little said about her, the author lets the reader figure out her characteristics in greater depth. More precisely, when Mrs. Maloney prepares to go to the grocer, she is a very specific and a careful person. “She sat down before the mirror, tidied her hair, touched up her lips and face.” It is learnt in the story that Mary’s husband is very controlling of her and that she understood how not to provoke him. From beginning to end, Mary proves that she is a dynamic character as well. She goes from being an old-fashioned stay-home wife who listens to every command from her husband, to a suspect in killing her spouse, to only find out in the end that Mrs. Maloney is a skillful actor. She surprises the readers by showing her change in personality. Overall, the different characterizations used in the story help readers focus more on the protagonist, Mary Maloney who is a real rounded dynamic character.

<https://english9studyguide.wikispaces.com/Model+Paragraphs> – Adapted by Mme Lagrandeur