Inferring about Characters

When making inferences about characters, there are several areas the reader must examine — the character’s physical traits, inner traits, dialogue, and actions. Students should list examples from the text that fit each of these areas, and then make inferences about the character based on what they have listed. Following are some things to analyze for each area:

**Physical Traits**

Words used to describe facial expression, body, clothing, hair, etc.

**Inner Traits**

Words that tell what the character is thinking (words not spoken) that reflect mood, feelings, reactions and personality

**Dialogue**

Consider dialogue between two characters. What does it reveal about a character’s thoughts? What do you think the character is thinking when he/she says those words?

**Action**

Review the character’s actions and think about why the character acts as he does, predict what the character might do next, think about adjectives or phrases that describe the character’s behavior.

