

Character Bags Activity

Directions: Using the items your group selected at random, follow these steps-

Part One of Activity:

1. Come up with a character name and gender as a group. (Everyone will be completing chapters to this ONE character's story.)
2. List the picture of each object in the boxes indicated on your worksheet.
Discuss with your group how each item applies to the life of the character. How does it represent their personality, habits, experiences? Think about what the item could symbolize. For example: a candy bar, which has a lot of sugar, could represent that your character is very hyper or full of energy.
3. Explain those inferences in the second column: The "Rationale" needs to be a description of how your item means what you said it means. If you said that a baby means childishness, explain how you came up with that inference. If the baby means responsibility to you, help me understand that in the rationale box.
4. In the last column, give a character trait that describes the character based on this item: like "childish" or "responsible".
5. Every group will have four items/ traits. If you ended up in a group of three, one of you will do a fourth picture/ trait.

Item	Rationale – What does this item reveal about who the character is? This is not surface level – for instance, a volcano may represent that the character has an explosive temper. This does not show that they simply like volcanoes! Minimum of 3 sentences.	Character Trait
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Part Two of Activity:

1. Then, with your group, write 4 chapters for your character. These are supposed to be in order. Make your story have a beginning, a middle, and an end (not necessarily in that order). Each chapter is a story about your character and will showcase the character trait (chapter 1 is about item 1, chapter 2 about item 2, so on). Traits should be shown through your character indirectly. For example, a tire may represent that your character is very mobile and enjoys being on the move. The chapter for this trait may be about the character's road trip along Route 66 to visit a friend. How you "show" the character is the trait is through his or her relationships and through the character's response to conflict. Character traits are revealed through actions, dialogue, and inner thoughts.
2. Each group member will be responsible for one of the items, the trait it represents, and writing the chapter that showcases that trait.
3. When your chart is completed and your chapters are written, cut out the chart and 4 chapters and glue them to your butcher paper.
4. Make sure your story makes sense in a logical order. For example, the third chapter on the poster should not begin with "Once upon a time," and the first chapter should not be the resolution of the conflict unless you're doing a Quentin-Tarantino-style story and then you'd better be quite talented at your storytelling to help the rest of it make sense.

