



Character analysis

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

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**Character analysis** is thinking about *what a character does* to understand *what kind of person they are*.

**Character traits** are words that describe the *kind of person* someone is.

Here a few examples of **character traits**:

|             |            |            |         |               |
|-------------|------------|------------|---------|---------------|
| active      | calm       | determined | grouchy | rude          |
| adventurous | caring     | energetic  | helpful | shy           |
| bossy       | curious    | fair       | honest  | stubborn      |
| brave       | dependable | funny      | mean    | understanding |

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 Here is a description of a book that you might like to read. Think about *what each character does*, and what this tells you about *what kind of person they are*.

Introduction to *Beanboy*

Bean loves comics—both reading them and drawing them. His favorite comic book character is the superhero, H2O. With enough water, H2O can double in size. Bean buys every new issue of the comic book on the day it comes out. In Lisa Harkrader's book, *Beanboy*, we meet Bean when he has just bought the newest issue of H2O. Sam, a boy Bean knows but doesn't like much, grabs Bean's new comic book and throws it into a puddle of water. All this makes Bean almost late to pick up his younger brother Beech at the bus stop. Bean runs all the way to the bus stop. He is worried about what might happen if he isn't there when Beech gets off the bus. Beech is 9 years old, and he goes to a different school than Bean. Bean is in the 8th grade and in High School. He takes care of his brother in their apartment each day until their mother gets home from work. Their mother also takes college classes at night.

Bean gets to the bus stop just in time, and walks home with Beech. Beech doesn't like going up the stairs to their apartment. He likes to sit down backwards on the stairs, and push himself up, one step at a time. Bean used to try to talk Beech into walking up the stairs, but now Bean just waits. It isn't easy to get Beech to change his mind about something.

When Bean and Beech finally get inside, Beech wants Bean to read the new comic book to him. Beech can't wait to find out what happens in the new story. Bean wants to let the comic book dry out first. He is afraid the wet pages will tear. But Beech keeps asking, so Bean reads the comic book to him, and some of the

pages do get torn. Bean doesn't really mind though, because he can't believe what he finds on the last page of the new comic book.

The new comic book has a big announcement. There will be a contest to see who can come up with the best sidekick for H2O. The prize will be a full college scholarship. The new sidekick will be in every H2O comic book from that time on. Winning the contest becomes Bean's new goal in life.

Bean really wants to join the school Art Club. But it meets after school. Someone else would have to take care of Beech on those days, and that would cost money. Bean thinks his mom would pay for it, but then she would worry about the extra expense. He knows his mom worries about leaving him to watch Beech so often. And would a babysitter be patient enough to wait while Beech scooted up the stairs sitting down backwards? You can find out more about Bean and Beach, and a sidekick for H2O in *Beanboy*. You will probably enjoy the comic book drawings in the book as well.

Think about *what the characters did*, and what this shows *the character is like*.

what the character did	what the character is like
1. Bean runs all the way to Beech's bus stop. What does this show that Bean is like?	A. energetic B. dependable C. bossy
2. Beech doesn't like to walk up the stairs, so Bean always waits for him to go upstairs sitting down. What does this show that Beech is like?	A. brave B. curious C. stubborn
3. Bean's mom works, and also takes college classes. What does this show that Bean's mom is like?	A. determined B. honest C. calm
4. Beech can't wait to find out what happens in the new H2O story. What does this show that Beech is like?	A. helpful B. curious C. fair
5. Bean doesn't want to ask his mom if he can join the Art Club. What does this show that Bean is like?	A. shy B. understanding C. active
6. Bean worries that a babysitter wouldn't be patient with Beech. What does this show that Bean is like?	A. caring B. adventurous C. grouchy

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- What is one other character trait that could be used to describe what Bean is like? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is one other character trait that could be used to describe what Beech is like? \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key

1. B

2. C

3. A

4. B

5. B

6. A

7-8 Accept any reasonable responses.