

Character traits

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

Character traits are words that tell what a character is like and help us understand them. There are two types of character traits:

- **Internal character traits** describe a character's personality. They are based on what the character does, thinks, says and feels.
- **External character traits** describe how a character looks. They are based on what you can see about the character from the outside.

First, read the story and think about Grumble's character traits:

Deep in the forest, past the tallest trees and the widest rivers, lived a very tall, very green ogre named Grumble.

Most people expect ogres to be messy and mean, but Grumble wasn't like that at all. His little wooden house had a clean stone path, a flower garden and a doormat that read, "Wipe Your Feet!"

One morning, Grumble swept his front step and shook out his rugs. The birds chirped happily in the trees. Just as he finished, there was a knock at the door.

It was Benny the Rabbit and Willow the Fox.

"Grumble, we need help!" Benny said.

"Our picnic is ruined!" Willow said. "A big storm blew through last night, and now there's mud everywhere!"

Grumble scratched his lumpy, green chin. "Hm, okay. I'll try to fix it," he said kindly.



At the picnic spot, soggy leaves and broken branches covered the ground. Grumble rolled up his sleeves. With just a few big scoops of his giant hands, the mess was gone. Next, he set up the picnic blanket.

“The blanket is all wet from the storm, though!” Benny said.

Grumble picked the blanket back up and wrung it out with his hands. Then he spread it out across a rock that was already hot from the sun. The blanket dried in minutes!

Willow grinned. “Wow, Grumble! That’s so smart!”

Grumble dusted off his hands and smiled. “Now, let’s eat!”

The three friends sat together, enjoying their lunch. Benny and Willow didn’t even notice Grumble’s bumpy green skin or his giant nose. Even though he looked like a normal ogre, they only saw their kind, helpful friend.

When the picnic was over, Willow and Benny rolled up the blanket. Before they could leave, Grumble held up a finger. “Not so fast,” he said. “Did you clean up your crumbs?”

The two animals laughed and quickly threw away the last bits of food.

“Good!” Grumble said with a big smile. “I don’t want ants in my forest!”

With that, Grumble waved goodbye and walked home, his giant feet making soft thuds on the forest floor.



Then, sort these character traits into internal character traits and external character traits:

Character traits			
big	impatient	tiny	nice
neat	beautiful	green	witty
short	adventurous	a good friend	ugly

Internal character traits

External character traits

Finally, choose two internal character traits and two external character traits to describe the main character. Use details from the story to explain why you chose each one:

Internal character traits



Internal Trait #1:

I choose this trait because

Internal Trait #2:

I choose this trait because

External character traits



External Trait #1:

I choose this trait because

External Trait #2:

I choose this trait because

Answers

Sorting character traits:

Internal character traits

- neat
- adventurous
- a good friend
- nice
- impatient
- witty

External character traits

- big
- tiny
- beautiful
- green
- short
- unusual-looking

Choosing character traits:

Accept any variation of the following:

Internal character traits



Nice: The story says that Grumble speaks kindly and does things to help his friends.

A good friend: The story explains that Grumble likes to help his friends. For example, he helps his friends get ready for a picnic.

Neat: Grumble cares about his house being clean, he cleans up the picnic spot and he reminds others to clean up too!

External character traits



Big: The story says that Grumble is tall with giant hands.

Green: The story describes Grumble as a green ogre.

Unusual-looking: The story describes Grumble as having bumpy skin, a giant nose and a lumpy chin!