

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 Mr. Joe's character traits:

Every morning, Mr. Joe stood at the crosswalk in his bright orange vest, holding up his stop sign. His glasses perched on his nose, and his smile never faded, even on rainy days.

"Good morning, kids!" he called, his voice strong and clear over the noisy street. "Walk, don't run! Eyes up and pay attention!"

The students knew to listen. It didn't matter that Mr. Jones was only as tall as the fifth graders. When he spoke, everyone paid attention.

One chilly morning, a first grader named Ben stood at the curb, looking nervous. The cars zoomed by, and his backpack seemed too big for him.

Mr. Joe stepped beside him without rushing. "You got this, buddy," he said. He held up his sign without hesitation, and the cars slowed to a stop. "Okay, time to cross. Nice and easy!"

Ben walked across with all the other kids who were crossing. When they reached the other side, Mr. Joe gave him a thumbs-up.



"See? Easy as pie," he said. "Now go learn something fun!"

At lunch, some older kids played soccer near the sidewalk. The ball rolled into the street just as a car was coming. One boy started to run after it.

"Hold it right there!" Mr. Joe's voice cut through the noise, strong but kind. The boy froze.

Mr. Joe walked over at his usual steady pace, picked up the ball and handed it back. "Always look first. Cars can't stop as fast as I can," he said with a wink.

Later that afternoon, a group of students walked up, chatting about their day.

"My little brother dropped his bookbag in the street once," one girl said. "Mr. Joe got it before a car could even honk!"

Another student laughed. "One time, he stopped a car with just a look!"

As school ended, Mr. Joe waved at the long line of kids. "See you tomorrow, scholars! Don't forget: Look both ways before you cross!"

One student grinned and called back, "We know, Mr. Joe! You tell us that every day!"

Mr. Joe chuckled and said, "I'll keep saying it for as long as I work here!" He then lifted his stop sign without hurry and guided the next group of kids across the street, his smile still as bright as ever.



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

Character traits			
shy	short	calm	helpful
young	wears glasses	mean	brown-haired
tall	funny	loud	always smiling

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

- shy
- calm
- helpful
- mean
- sly
- loud

External character traits

- short
- wears glasses
- brown-haired
- tall
- wears braces
- young

Choosing character traits:

Accept any variation of the following:

Internal character traits



Calm: The story proves that Mr. Joe doesn't get upset easily.

Helpful: The story explains that Mr. Joe keeps students safe every day by helping them cross the street.

Loud: The story says that Mr. Joe's voice is loud enough for kids to hear him over the traffic.

External character traits



Short: The story says that Mr. Joe is only as tall as the fifth graders.

Wear glasses: The story says that Mr. Jones has glasses on his nose.

Always smiling: The story says that Mr. Jones' smile never fades!