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 Tiko's character traits:

Deep in the clear blue ocean, a big, green sea turtle glided through the waves. Sunlight hit his shiny shell as he swam near a coral reef. Under the water, he watched colorful fish swim between the rocks. The turtle's name was Tiko. While other turtles liked to stay hidden, Tiko loved exploring.

One day, as Tiko paddled through the water, he spotted something unusual. He saw legs kicking, arms moving and bubbles rising! Humans!

Most sea turtles swam the other way when humans came near, because they were scared. Not Tiko! He wanted to learn more about what humans were like. He tilted his head and watched as the swimmers floated in the water and kicked their feet to move around.

Tiko swam closer. One girl spotted him and gasped. She pointed, and the others turned, their eyes wide with excitement.

Instead of hiding, Tiko did a little backwards flip. The humans laughed and clapped. One boy stretched out his arm, and Tiko swam just close enough for a gentle high-five.

From that day on, Tiko looked for his human friends whenever they came to swim. Sometimes, he zoomed past them in the water like he was in a race. Other times, he spun in circles around them while they played in the water.

One afternoon, Tiko noticed something strange. A human was splashing wildly, kicking too hard and struggling to stay up. The others called for help, but the waves pushed them back.

Tiko didn't hesitate. He swam toward the swimmer, dove under him and pushed him up with his big, strong shell. The boy grabbed onto Tiko's back and caught his breath. Then the humans swam over and helped their friend safely back to shore.

As Tiko watched from the waves, the boy waved at him. "Thank you, Tiko!"

Tiko flapped his long flippers and splashed, as if to say, "See you next time!" Then, with a final flick of his tail, he dove deep into the ocean, ready for his next adventure.

That evening, as the sun set over the water, Tiko floated near some swaying sea grass. He thought about his day—the races, the twirls and helping his human friend.

A small school of fish swam by and interrupted his thoughts. Tiko smiled and followed them, twisting and turning through the water. Even after a long day, he still wasn't ready to stop exploring and having fun.

Then, sort these character traits into <u>internal character traits</u> and <u>external character traits</u>:

Character traits			
curious	big	pink	serious
blue-eyed	shy	shiny	lonely
brave	green	playful	furry

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	External character traits

Internal Trait #1:

_____

I choose this trait because

_____

_____

_____

Internal Trait #2:

_____

I choose this trait because

_____

_____

_____

External Trait #1:

_____

I choose this trait because

_____

_____

_____

External Trait #2:

_____

I choose this trait because

_____

_____

_____

Answers

Sorting character traits:

Internal character traits	External character traits
- curious - serious - shy - lonely - brave - playful	- big - pink - blue-eyed - shiny - green - furry

Choosing character traits:

Accept any variation of the following:

Internal character traits	External character traits

Internal character traits

Curious: The story said that Tiko likes to explore. He also swam with humans because he wanted to learn more about them.

Brave: The story said that Tiko wasn't afraid of humans like most turtles. He also helped a human when he was having trouble swimming.

Playful: The story said that Tiko played with the humans and then a school of fish.

External character traits

Big: The story said that Tiko had long flippers and a big, strong shell.

Shiny: The story said that Tiko's shell was shiny in the sun.

Green: The story said that Tiko was a green sea turtle.