

# How to Write a Literary Essay About Character

- Reread selected bits.
- Notice details, think, talk, write to explore: "Why this detail?"
- Think, "What does the character really want?" and write long.
- It can help to use thought prompts (Maybe... Perhaps...)
- Think about the deep down, internal motivations.
- Once you have an idea and some evidence, reread again, reread more of the text, reread more closely, and expect your original idea will change.
- Try to generate an idea about the character that encompasses the whole character and the whole text.
- Search for the most compelling evidence that can support the claim, then add it to your essay like this:
  - Quote some parts of the text.
  - Story-tell other parts.
  - Summarize yet other parts.