

Characters

How can we describe characters in a story?

ENGAGE

Prompt a discussion about stories by asking students to name a story they have heard. If they have difficulty recalling a story, remind them of stories you have recently read in class.

Talk about the people and animals in these stories. Explain that they are called characters, and they are very important to the story because all of the action revolves around them. Ask students to name the characters in the stories they mentioned.

Then ask students how we might describe the characters. Discuss physical characteristics (i.e., the way the character looks) and character traits (i.e., the way the character acts).

EXPLORE

Have the students build the minifigures within the LEGO set.

Have students brainstorm the character description for the minifigure. Have students consider both physical characteristics and their character traits. Provide the students with the "My LEGO® Minifigure" template to capture their ideas.

EXPLAIN

When they have finished brainstorming, ask students to share their ideas about their minifigures as characters in a story. Allow for discussion.

ELABORATE

Provide the opportunity to discuss why characters are important in a story. Also allow time to consider questions like:

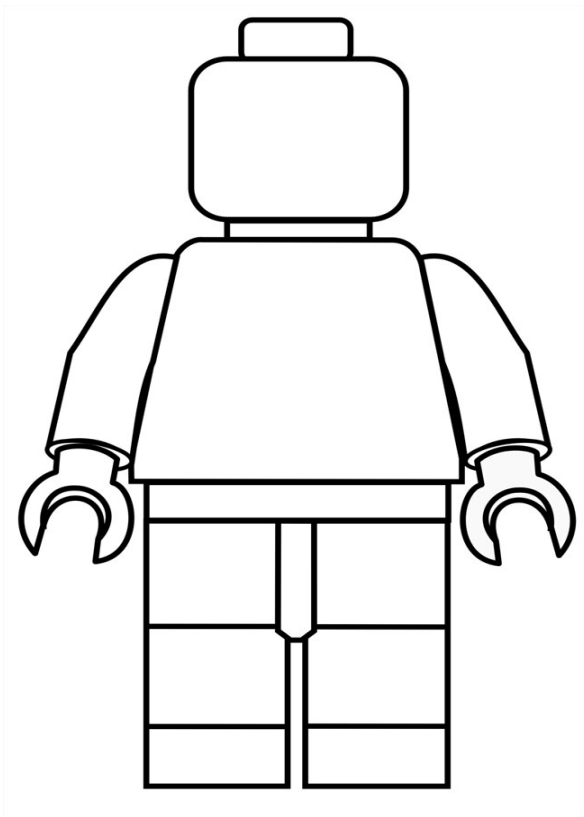
- What makes a good character in a story?
- Why is it important to provide descriptions of a character's physical appearance?
- Why is it important to understand a character's traits?
- Are character traits always stated outright (i.e., the author directly states in the story)?
- How does an author convey these ideas in a story?
- How is this different in picture books versus chapter books?

EXTEND

To continue the learning, have students create their own story about one of their minifigures they built. The students should include both physical descriptions of their minifigure in their story and include examples of their character traits based on their behaviors and actions in the story.



MY LEGO® MINIFIGURE



PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	CHARACTER TRAITS