

TOP SECRET

CHARACTER TRAIT DETECTIVE FILES



SOLVE THE CASE!



Become a reading detective and gather clues from the text to discover a character's traits. Use evidence from what a character says, does, thinks, and feels to solve the case!



WHAT'S INCLUDED:



**TEACHER
DIRECTIONS**



**CRAFT
TEMPLATE**



EXAMPLE



TEACHER DIRECTIONS



Character Trait Detective Files



OBJECTIVE:

Students become reading detectives as they gather clues from the text to determine a character's traits. By collecting evidence about what a character says, does, thinks, and feels, students use text evidence to solve the case and support their conclusions.



MATERIALS:

- Character Trait Detective Files craft template
- Detective recording pages
- Scissors
- Glue

- Pencils
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Large piece of construction paper (optional)



BEFORE READING:

- Introduce or review what character traits are.
- Explain that detectives must gather clues before making conclusions.
- Preview the story and discuss who the main character is.
- Encourage students to pay attention to what the character says, does, thinks, and feels.



DURING READING:

Pause throughout the story to discuss:

- What did the character say?
- What did the character do?
- How is the character feeling?
- What clues help us understand the character?
- Which character trait matches the evidence?

Encourage students to record clues before deciding on a trait.



AFTER READING:

Students complete the activities in this order:

- ① Detective Case Cover
- ② Evidence Collection Page
- ③ Character Trait Conclusion
- ④ Assemble the Detective File Craft

Students may work independently, with a partner, or in small groups.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What character trait best describes the character?
- What evidence supports that trait?
- Did the character change during the story?
- Which clue was the strongest?
- Would another trait also fit? Why?



EXTENSION IDEAS:

- Write another piece of evidence that wasn't used.
- Compare two characters using detective files.
- Create a new detective case for a different story.
- Act out scenes that reveal different character traits.

TEACHER TIP:

Remind students that good readers don't guess character traits—they solve the case by collecting clues from the text. Encourage them to explain their thinking using sentence starters such as "I know the character is ____ because..." or "The evidence shows..."



CASE CLOSED!

SAYS

"I want
to talk
about it."

DOES

She listens
to others
and stands
up for
what's right.

THINKS

She thinks
everyone
should be
included and
treated fairly.

FEELS

She feels
nervous,
but also
brave and
proud.

CONCLUSION!

Sally is
brave and
caring!

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SOLVE THE CASE!

DETECTIVE: MarkCHARACTER: Sally McCabeSTORY TITLE: The Smallest girl in the
Smallest Grade

THE CASE: Sally is the smallest
girl in the smallest grade, and
notices that some students are being
left out. Even though she is small, she
decides to speak up and make a difference.

★
GOOD READERS
GATHER CLUES
TO SOLVE
THE CASE!



THE CASE IS SOLVED!

MY CONCLUSION ABOUT THE CHARACTER:

★ Sally is brave and caring because she speaks
up for others and works to make her school
a kinder and more inclusive place. ★

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CHARACTER TRAIT DETECTIVE FILES



SOLVE THE CASE!



DETECTIVE: _____

CHARACTER: _____

STORY TITLE: _____

THE CASE:

★
GOOD READERS
GATHER CLUES
TO SOLVE
THE CASE!



**WHAT THE
CHARACTER
SAYS**



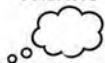
SAYS

**WHAT THE
CHARACTER
DOES**



DOES

**WHAT THE
CHARACTER
THINKS**



THINKS

**WHAT THE
CHARACTER
FEELS**



FEELS



THE CASE IS SOLVED!



MY CONCLUSION ABOUT THE CHARACTER:



CONCLUSION