

RE-VIEW

Video: Luis Garcia: End Zone Hero Fourth Quarter & Overtime

Characterization

(others' thoughts about the character & the character in action)

Turner wants to write a new story. Ms. Heeley suggests that he reads the story, "Luis Garcia: End Zone Hero" in *The Press Box* magazine before he starts writing. The author of this story used other's thoughts about the character and the character in action to reveal his public and private traits. Turner used a T-chart to compile these traits in order to help him develop a more complete picture of Luis. Turner knows this process will be helpful as he thinks about developing the main character for his story.

Now it's **Your Turn!** Read ***Luis Garcia: End Zone Hero***. Create your own *Think Aloud* and *T-Chart*.

Then compare your thinking with **Turner's Think Aloud and T-Chart**.



(others' thoughts about the character & the character in action)

Video: Luis Garcia: End Zone Hero Fourth Quarter & Overtime

Characterization

Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about characterization. Think about what you've learned about the development of characters through the thoughts of others or the characters in action. Remember, interesting characters are complex and well developed.

While You Read:

Notice public and private traits that help you get to know the main character. You may want to highlight the public traits in green and the private traits in orange. (You may use any color available to you – just remember your color scheme!) Then record these traits in a T-chart so that you develop a complete picture of what the character is like.

After You Read:

- How can you identify the character traits revealed by the author through other's thoughts about the character and the character in action?
- Think about the question, "What new information have I learned about Luis Garcia?"
- Think about the video you just watched. Turner shared how character traits helped him learn about the main character in the story.
- Create your own *Think Aloud*. Share how you made sense of this passage, too.

Luis Garcia: End Zone Hero

Bobby Monroe positioned himself over the ball and stared down the Panther's hulking nose guard. The senior center was nervous because he knew the stakes were high, but he didn't doubt his coach, nor did he doubt Garcia's ability to be a winner.

"For a sophomore, Garcia's tough as nails in practice, and he hits it hard in the off season, too. He's as fast as any running back I've ever played with," Bobby thought. He knew the only reason Luis hadn't played during the regular season was because Joey Hon was a three-time All-Stater, and had a lock on the position. Until now.

The time-out was over. The fans were on their feet as Bobby snapped the ball to Luis. Luis, always the scrawniest kid on his youth football teams, had been told by countless coaches to pick a different sport. That was before they knew that the kid had an arm that, with practice, could win a game. Luis ran back five yards towards the Panther sideline. Then back another ten. He trusted his offensive line would hold.

Finally, Luis zeroed in on Chris emerging from behind two Panther linebackers. He brought his left-arm back and fired the ball as the crowd held its breath. Chris dove into the end zone just before the last second ticked from the clock.

As the horn sounded to end the game, Luis Garcia found himself hoisted up on the shoulders of his teammates. "You did it!" Bobby shouted.

"We did it!" replied Luis.





(others' thoughts about the character & the character in action)

RE-VIEW

Video: Luis Garcia: End Zone Hero Fourth Quarter & Overtime

Characterization

Create a T-Chart:

After you have determined the public and private traits the author used to describe Luis Garcia, create a T-chart below to represent your thinking and to help you remember these key characteristics.



Video: Luis Garcia: End Zone Hero Fourth Quarter & Overtime

Characterization

Compare your Think Aloud with Turner's Think Aloud:

Turner's Think Aloud: I know authors reveal character traits through the thoughts of others. As I read this paragraph I learn about Luis from Bobby. When I read that Bobby didn't "doubt Garcia's ability to be a winner," I realize Bobby thinks Luis is a "winner." When I read, "For a sophomore, Garcia's tough as nails in practice, and he hits it hard in the off season," I understand that Bobby thinks Luis is "tough," and "hardworking" because I know these are sayings people use to describe someone who is tough and hardworking. Since these traits describe Luis's inner strengths, I add them to the private column on my T-chart. When I read, "He's as fast as any running back I've ever played with," I understand that Bobby also thinks Luis is fast. This is a physical attribute so I record "fast" in the public column.

I know that an author may provide the character's persona or traits directly, such as the thoughts I just read from Bobby, but he's more likely to reveal these traits in action. So I need to pay careful attention to the things the character is doing, feeling, saying, thinking, or dreaming. As a reader I have to infer or draw conclusions about the character's traits based upon how they act, too!

I find out that Luis has a strong arm when I read, "the kid had an arm that... could win a game" and that he "fired the ball." I understand that this is a physical accomplishment, so I list "strong arm" in the public column.

I'm thinking Luis is "trusting" of his teammates, when I read, "He trusted his offensive line would hold." I'm also thinking he is "focused" when I read, "zeroed in on Chris." This is a saying that people use to describe when someone is focused. Since these are both inner strengths, I write them in the private column. When I read that Luis was "hoisted up on the shoulders" of his teammates, I understand he is "accepted" by them. Since this is a visible accomplishment, I record "accepted by others" in the public column.

Luis Garcia: End Zone Hero

Bobby Monroe positioned himself over the ball and stared down the Panther's hulking nose guard. The senior center was nervous because he knew the stakes were high, but he didn't doubt his coach, **nor did he doubt Garcia's ability to be a winner.**

"For a sophomore, Garcia's tough as nails in practice, and he hits it hard in the off season, too. He's as fast as any running back I've ever played with," Bobby

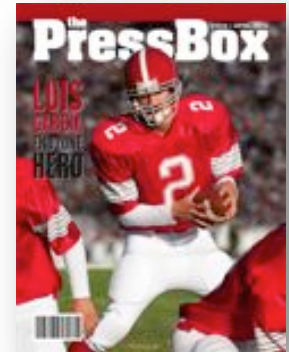
thought. He knew the only reason Luis hadn't played during the regular season was because Joey Hon was a three-time All-Stater, and had a lock on the position. Until now.

The time-out was over. The fans were on their feet as Bobby snapped the ball to Luis. Luis, always the scrawniest kid on his youth football teams, had been told by countless coaches to pick a different sport. That was before they knew that **the kid had an arm that, with practice, could win a game.** Luis ran back five yards towards the Panther sideline. Then back another ten. **He trusted his offensive line would hold.**

Finally, Luis **zeroed in on Chris** emerging from behind two Panther linebackers. He brought his left-arm back and **fired the ball** as the crowd held its breath. Chris dove into the end zone just before the last second ticked from the clock.

As the horn sounded to end the game, Luis Garcia found himself **hoisted up on the shoulders of his teammates.** "You did it!" Bobby shouted.

"We did it!" replied Luis.





Compare your T-Chart with Turner's T-Chart:

Turner's Graphic Organizer: "Because the author revealed the main character's public and private traits through the thoughts of others and through the character in action, I will record these characteristics by adding to my T-chart."

Public Traits	Private Traits
newcomer	ambitious
skinny	responsible
sophomore	unsure
football player	nervous
back-up	worrier
quarterback	
fast	conscientious
strong arm	confident
accepted by others	reliable
	trustworthy
	winner
	tough
	hardworking
	trusting
	focused

Questions to Think and Talk About:

- How do character traits help Turner get to know the main character?
- Why is it helpful to gather information from narration, the character's conversation with others, the character's thoughts, others' thoughts about the character, and the character in action?
- How does a T-chart help Turner develop a picture of what the character is like?
- Why might this process help you get to know characters you read about?
- When might this process be useful?