

THINKING ON MY OWN

Video: Luis Garcia: End Zone Hero

Second Quarter

Characterization
(character's conversation with others)

Edis has been into politics lately. With the upcoming presidential election he is glued to the TV. He enjoys the debates among the candidates and watching them speak. He feels he can get to know the candidates when he listens to their conversations with others. Recently he watched an evening news program where the reporter sat down with the various candidates for interviews. This program reminded him of a story he had read to his little brother, *Teo in Charge*, because he was able to learn about the characters personality through the conversations he read. Edis created a T-Chart to help him develop a more complete picture of Teo.

Now it's **Your Turn!** Read *Teo in Charge!* Create your own *Think Aloud* and *T-Chart*.

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



Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about babysitting. Consider what you've learned about characterization through their conversation with others. Then, jot your ideas.

While You Read:

As you read this story, ask yourself, "What am I learning about the character?" Think about the public and private traits that authors use to reveal their characters. 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!)

After You Read:

- Now it's time to try Thinking Aloud on your own. Ask yourself this question, "What *character traits* are revealed in the story through the character's conversation with others?"
- Use the information you've read in this story to determine the public and private traits of the character. Explain how this helps you to get to know the character better.

Teo In Charge

"I'm going to my tenant meeting soon, Teo," said Mom. "Are you sure you're ready to babysit Jose?"

"I'm sure," said Teo.

"Well," said Mom. "I'll just be at the apartment complex next door, but it's still a big responsibility."

"I'm used to big responsibilities," said Teo. "I'm on the safety patrol at school. My grades are good, and I never forget a customer on my paper route."

"That's true," said Mom. "Do you have your notebook?"

"It's right here," said Teo. "I have the emergency phone numbers, and everything else you told me to write down."

"You're prepared," said Mom.

"There's something else I wrote down," said Teo.

"What's that?" asked Mom.

"How much babysitters get paid!" laughed Teo.





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Create a T-Chart:

After you have determined the public and private traits revealed through Teo's conversation with his mom, create a T-Chart below to represent your thinking and help you remember these key characteristics.



Compare your Think Aloud with Edis's Think Aloud:

Edis's Think Aloud: I know that I can get to know the characters in the text I'm reading by paying careful attention to the conversations that the character has with others in the story. In the first paragraph when I read Teo's mom ask, "Are you sure you're ready to babysit Jose?" I am thinking that Teo is a big brother. This question combined with her comment about attending the apartment tenant meeting helps me realize he has a younger sibling because his mom needs him to babysit while she's gone. Being a big brother is a trait that is visible to others so I will record, "big brother" in the public column of my T-chart.

When I read, "I'm used to big responsibilities," I understand that Teo views himself as responsible. Since this is an inner strength Teo suggests about himself, I will list "responsible" under the private column on the T-chart. As I continue to read, Teo states he is part of the school safety patrol and gets good grades. Since these traits are things that can be seen, I will list "school safety patrol" and "good grades" in the public column. Teo also mentions "I never forget a customer on my paper route." This statement helps me realize that Teo is "conscientious." Since this trait an inner strength, I will list it under the private column. However, the statement also helps me to know that Teo delivers newspapers, which is a public trait. So, on the public side of my T-chart I'll list "newspaper delivery boy" because it is a visible trait about Teo.

When Teo's mom asks, "do you have your notebook?" and he responds with, "I have the emergency numbers, and everything else you told me to write down," I know he is prepared. His mom's comment, "You're prepared," supports my thinking. I will write the word "prepared" under that private column.

Finally, I learn that Teo is funny. When I read, "There's something else I wrote down,"... "How much babysitters get paid!" I realize that Teo has a sense of humor and likes to joke around. Under the private column I will record the word "funny" since this is an inner trait he possesses.

Teo In Charge

"I'm going to my tenant meeting soon, Teo," said Mom. "Are you sure you're ready to babysit Jose?"

"I'm sure," said Teo.

"Well," said Mom. "I'll just be at the apartment complex next door, but it's still a big responsibility."

"I'm used to big responsibilities," said Teo. "I'm on the safety patrol at school. My grades are good, and I never forget a customer on my paper route."

"That's true," said Mom. "Do you have your notebook?"

"It's right here," said Teo. "I have the emergency phone numbers, and everything else you told me to write down."

"You're prepared," said Mom.

"There's something else I wrote down," said Teo.

"What's that?" asked Mom.

"How much babysitters get paid!" laughed Teo.





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

Edis's T-Chart: "Because the author revealed the main character's public and private traits by using his conversation with others, I will record these characteristics by creating a T-Chart."

Public Traits	Private Traits
big brother	responsible
school safety patrol	conscientious
good grades	prepared
newspaper delivery boy	funny

Questions to Think and Talk About:

- How do character traits help Edis get to know the main character?
- How does a T-chart help Edis 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?



RE-VIEW

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Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about characterization. Think about what you've learned about the development of characters through their conversations with others. Remember that authors often provide readers clues as to what the character is really like by giving him or her a quirk. Authors also use adjectives when describing a character to help the reader better understand the character.

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.

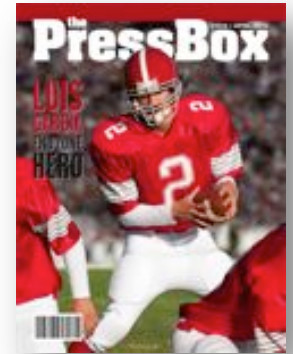
After You Read:

- How can you identify the character traits revealed by the author through the character's conversations with others from the story you read?
- 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

A hulk of a man, Coach Lensky wore the same ball cap and headphones to every game. He grabbed Luis's shoulders and looked him straight in the eye. "I can see you're thinking too much, Garcia. Don't worry. Just look for Chris in the far corner. He'll be open."

Luis swallowed hard, and nodded. "I'll do my best, Coach."





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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.