

THINKING ON MY OWN

Video: Luis Garcia: End Zone Hero

Third Quarter

Characterization
(character's thoughts)

Karl loves storms. Thunder, lightning, and tornadoes fascinate him. He's been reading all he can find in the library, the Internet, and in magazines because he's curious about how these storms begin. Recently one of his subscriptions published an entire edition on storm chasing and tracking. The magazine was such help he's thinking he may want that career someday. One of the articles, **Tornado Tracker**, shared the thoughts of one storm chaser. Karl found that reading about other's thoughts was a useful way to learn about the kind of person needed to take on such a challenging job.

Now it's **Your Turn!** Read **Tornado Tracker!** Create your own *Think Aloud* and *T-chart*.

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

THINKING ON MY OWN

Video: Luis Garcia: End Zone Hero

Pre-Game Warm Up & First Quarter

Characterization
(narration)

Marcus is preparing for his family's annual summer vacation to a fishing resort. He enjoys the vacation once he gets there, but the car ride is a little long. As he is browsing various books to take on the trip, he comes across a book with a character that reminds him of his grandpa. Having only read the first chapter he decides to finish the book and then share with his grandpa the author's use of character description. Read *Late Night Mystery*, and see how the author's narration helps Marcus identify various character traits he can share with his grandpa.

Now it's **Your Turn!** Read *Late Night Mystery*. Create your own *Think Aloud* and *T-chart*.

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



Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about authors and mystery writing. Consider what you've learned about characterization through narration. 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 narration?"
- Use the information you've read in this story to determine the public and private traits of the character. Explain how this helps you get to know the character better.

Late Night Mystery

Mr. Hendershot was wide-awake. He had just started writing a mystery, and his mind was busy with plot twists, and new characters.

With his wife asleep, Mr. Hendershot shuffled quietly into the kitchen. He fixed a cup of tea to take into his study. Boo, the family cat, lay curled up on his soft, worn chair where he usually wrote. Not wanting to disturb him, Mr. Hendershot chose the window seat instead. He settled in with his laptop computer, and started writing. First, he wrote an e-mail to cheer on his grandson, who had a swim meet later that day. Then he wrote a poem about Boo for his young granddaughter, who was learning to read.

Finally, Mr. Hendershot turned his attention to his story, where a castle, a key, and a servant with a secret waited.





THINKING ON MY OWN

Video: Luis Garcia: End Zone Hero
Pre-Game Warm Up & First Quarter
Characterization
(narration)

Create a T-Chart:

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



Compare your Think Aloud with Marcus's Think Aloud:

Marcus's Think Aloud: I know that I can learn about a character by carefully reading how the author describes the character in the text. When I read, "Mr. Hendershot was wide-awake," and "he had just started writing a mystery, and his mind was busy with plot twists, and new characters," I understand that Mr. Hendershot is a writer and is excited about his new piece. I'm thinking he's excited because his mind is racing with ideas that are causing him to be wide-awake late at night. I know it is night because his wife is sleeping and the title of the story, *Late Night Mystery*. On my T-chart I record "writer" as a public trait of Mr. Hendershot and "excited about his writing" under the private column since it is a personal feeling.

I realized Mr. Hendershot was considerate because he didn't want to wake his wife when I read that he "shuffled quietly into the kitchen." I will record "considerate" under the private column since it is an inner strength. I also understand that Mr. Hendershot is a tea drinker and a cat owner when I read, "he fixed a cup of tea," and "Boo, the family cat." Both of these traits are observable so I will record "tea drinker" and "cat owner" in public column. I found more evidence that Mr. Hendershot is considerate when he allowed the cat to stay sleeping in his usual writing chair. As I read I realized that Mr. Hendershot is a computer user. I know this because of the text, "he settled in with his laptop computer." Since this observable, I will list "computer user" as a public trait. Near the end of the second paragraph, when I read that he wrote an e-mail to his grandson and a poem for his granddaughter I understand that Mr. Hendershot is thoughtful. Because this is an inner strength I will record "thoughtful" under the private column. I also understand that Mr. Hendershot is a grandfather because he wrote to his grandson and granddaughter. I will record "grandfather" under the public column of my T-chart.

In the very last paragraph, I read, "Mr. Hendershot turned his attention to his story, where a castle, a key, and a servant with a secret waited." I think that Mr. Hendershot must be creative because his story sounds suspenseful! I will write "creative" under the private column because it is an inner strength.

Late Night Mystery

Mr. Hendershot was wide-awake. He had just started writing a mystery, and his mind was busy with plot twists, and new characters.

With his wife asleep, Mr. Hendershot **shuffled quietly into the kitchen. He fixed a cup of tea** to take into his study. **Boo, the family cat, lay curled up on his soft, worn chair where he usually wrote. Not wanting to disturb him, Mr. Hendershot chose the window seat instead.** He settled in with his **laptop computer**, and started writing. First, **he wrote an e-mail** to cheer on his **grandson**, who had a swim meet later that day. Then **he wrote a poem** about Boo for his young **granddaughter**, who was learning to read.

Finally, Mr. Hendershot turned his attention to his story, where **a castle, a key, and a servant with a secret waited.**





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

Marcus's Graphic Organizer: "Because the author revealed the main character by using narration to describe public and private traits, I will use a T-chart to record these characteristics."

Public Traits	Private Traits
writer	excited
tea drinker	considerate
cat owner	thoughtful
computer user	creative
grandfather	

Questions to Think About:

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



Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about tornadoes and storm chasers. Consider what you've learned about characterization through the character's thoughts. 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 thoughts?"
- 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.

Tornado Tracker

Eric stuffed his video camera and gear into his packed SUV. "*Storm research never gets old,*" he thought.

As he drove, the weather radio beeped with tornado watches. He remembered his childhood spent on his grandparents' farm. He had seen a tornado's power up close. Without warning, the tornado had hit, toppling buildings and trees. He and his grandparents huddled in the basement. Eric knew then he wanted to study storms someday. Perhaps what he discovered could save lives?



Eric stopped the SUV. He noted the weather conditions on his laptop. He scanned the changing sky. Just then, he spotted rotation in a wall of grey clouds. He picked up his cell phone to call the storm center. "I'll be tracking this one," he said.



Create a T-Chart:

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



Compare your Think Aloud with Karl's Think Aloud:

Karl's Think Aloud: I know that authors often reveal character traits by describing the character's thoughts. As I read, I'll pay close attention to the thoughts of the character to better understand his personal traits. When I read, "Eric stuffed his video camera and gear into his packed SUV" I understand that Eric is a storm chaser. On my T-chart, I record "storm chaser" under the public column because it is a visible trait. I'm thinking Eric enjoys his job when I read, "Storm research never gets old." I record "enjoys his job" in the private column because this is a feeling he has.

At the end of the second paragraph when I read, "Eric knew then he wanted to study storms someday," I thought Eric must be "goal-oriented" because he knew what he wanted to do when he was still a child. I'm also thinking that he must be "motivated" and "ambitious" because he reached his goal. I record these traits under the private column because they describe Eric's inner strengths. In the last sentence of the second paragraph I read, "Perhaps what he discovered could save lives?" This makes me think that Eric is compassionate because, as a child, he is already thinking about saving the lives of others. I will list the word "compassionate" under the private column of the T-chart.

In the last paragraph, I'm thinking Eric is "observant" when I read, "He noted the weather conditions on his laptop" and "He scanned the changing sky." When I read, "he spotted rotation in a wall of grey clouds" and "I'll be tracking this one" I'm thinking that Eric is fearless and daring because he was going to stay to track the action of the storm. On my T-chart I record "observant," "fearless," and "daring" under the private column.

Tornado Tracker

Eric stuffed his video camera and gear into his packed SUV. "Storm research never gets old," he thought.

As he drove, the weather radio beeped with tornado watches. He remembered his childhood spent on his grandparents' farm. He had seen a tornado's power up close. Without warning, the tornado had hit, toppling buildings and trees. He and his grandparents huddled in the basement.

Eric knew then he wanted to study storms someday. Perhaps what he discovered could save lives?



Eric stopped the SUV.
He noted the weather conditions on his laptop. He scanned the changing sky. Just then, he spotted rotation in a wall of grey clouds. He picked up his cell phone to call the storm center. "I'll be tracking this one," he said.



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

Karl's T-Chart: "Because the author revealed the main character's public and private traits by sharing his personal thoughts, I will record these characteristics by creating a T-Chart."

Public Traits	Private Traits
storm chaser	enjoys his job
	goal oriented
	motivated
	ambitious
	compassionate
	observant
	fearless
	daring

Questions to Think About:

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