

# THINKING ON MY OWN

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

### *Characterization*

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

Chen loves music of all kinds. He likes to listen to many styles of music on his mp3 player and read about musicians and composers. He especially enjoys playing the piano and violin. In the latest subscription of *The Note*, he found a story about a young pianist his age who was surprised by a very special gift. Not only was Chen impressed by her good fortune, he also learned a lot about her character through the thoughts of others and by her actions.

Now it's **Your Turn!** Read **The Gift of Music**. Create your own *Think Aloud* and *T-chart*.

Then compare your thinking with **Chen's Think Aloud and T-chart**.



## THINKING ON MY OWN

### Video: Luis Garcia: End Zone Hero

#### Fourth Quarter & Overtime

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

#### Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about music and pianos. Consider what you've learned about characterization through others' thoughts about the character and character's in action. 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 other's thoughts about the character and the character in action?"
- 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.

#### The Gift of Music

The deliverymen finished moving the old upright piano out of the living room and the restored grand piano in, while Mallory's parents watched.

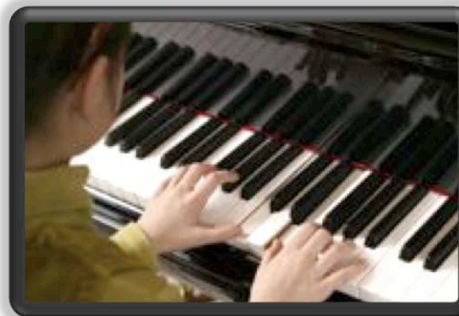
"What a gift Grandma Beatrice has given Mallory!" said Dad.

"She knows Mallory loves music," said Mom. "And she's seen how she practices piano – not just because she has to, but because she wants to."

Just then, Mallory rode her bike up the driveway and opened the front door. She drew in an amazed breath.

"A grand piano?" she exclaimed. "I can't believe it!"

Mallory sat down on the bench and stretched her trembling fingers. She gazed at the glossy keys and began to play.



The rich sound of Mallory's music filled living the house. When she finished, she said, "I know how I can thank Grandma Beatrice. I'm going to compose and play a song, just for her!" said Mallory.



### Create a T-Chart:

After you have determined the public and private traits the author revealed through others' thoughts about the character and the character in action, create a T-Chart below to represent your thinking and help you remember these key characteristics.



#### Compare your Think Aloud with Chen's Think Aloud:

**Chen's Think Aloud:** I know that I can learn a lot about the character if I pay close attention to their actions and the thoughts others have about the character. When I read the third paragraph and her mother said, "Mallory loves music," I understood that she enjoys music and that it is a private trait of Mallory's because it is a feeling. On my T-chart I will list "enjoys music" under the private column. As I continue reading her mom states, "she's seen how she practices piano not just because she has to, but because she wants to." This helps me understand that Mallory is a pianist. This is a visible trait that can be observed so I will list "pianist" under the public column. I'm also thinking that Mallory must be hard working and dedicated if she is practicing because she wants to. Since these traits are inner strengths I will list "hardworking" and "dedicated" under the private column of my T-chart.

When I read, "Mallory rode her bike," I understand she is a bike rider. I will list "bike rider" as a public trait on my T-chart. As I continue reading I read that Mallory "drew in an amazed breath" and exclaimed, "a grand piano?" I understand that Mallory was surprised by the gift because of her reaction. I will record "surprised" under the private trait column on my T-chart. Then when I read, "I can't believe it!" I'm thinking that Mallory was excited by the gift, too! I'm also thinking that when she sat down to play the piano and her fingers were trembling this was another example of her excitement because it is a brand new grand piano with glossy keys, she loves music, and practices a lot. So on my T-chart, I will record "excited" as a private trait because this is a feeling of Mallory's.

In the final paragraph when I read, "the rich sound of Mallory's music filled the house," I realized that she must be talented because her playing was "rich" in sound. Under the public column on my T-chart I will list "talented" because this is an accomplishment. I'm thinking that Mallory is thankful because she feels that she can thank her grandma by composing a piece of music to play for her. I will record "thankful" under that private column because this is a feeling of Mallory's. I also understand that Mallory is a composer since she is writing her own music. I add "composer" in the public column because this is an accomplishment. Since Mallory is taking these actions to thank, compose, and play for her grandmother I understand that she is thoughtful and considerate towards others. Because these are both inner strengths of Mallory's I will record "thoughtful" and "considerate" under the private column on my T-chart.

#### The Gift of Music

The deliverymen finished moving the old upright piano out of the living room and the restored grand piano in, while Mallory's parents watched.

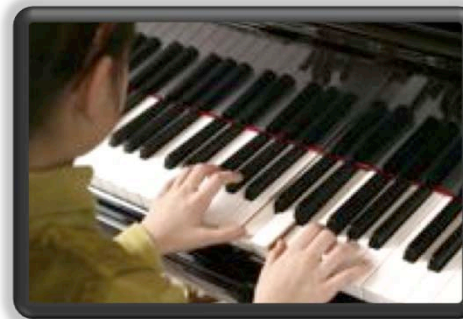
"What a gift Grandma Beatrice has given Mallory!" said Dad.

"She knows **Mallory loves music**," said Mom. "And **she's seen how she practices piano – not just because she has to, but because she wants to.**"

Just then, **Mallory rode her bike** up the driveway and opened the front door. **She drew in an amazed breath.**

**"A grand piano?"** she exclaimed. **"I can't believe it!"**

Mallory sat down on the bench and **stretched her trembling fingers**. She gazed at the **glossy keys** and began to play.



**The rich sound of Mallory's music filled living the house.** When she finished, she said, "I know how I can **thank** Grandma Beatrice. **I'm going to compose and play a song, just for her!**" said Mallory.



#### Compare your T-Chart with Chen's T-Chart:

**Chen's T-Chart:** "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 creating a T-chart."

Public Traits	Private Traits
pianist bike rider composer talented	enjoys music hardworking dedicated surprised excited thankful thoughtful considerate

#### Questions to Think and Talk About:

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