

THINKING WITH MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Video: Luis Garcia: End Zone Hero

Second Quarter

Characterization

(character's conversation with others)

Kambry loves visiting her grandma, especially when they ride the bus around town to run errands. She finds it enjoyable to be around all the different people. During their most recent bus ride, Kambry overheard some girls talking about their upcoming volleyball game and how challenging it would be for the team. She realized they were athletes and probably nervous, based on their conversation. This got her thinking of a short story she had just read in one of her magazines and how the author's use of dialogue helped her learn more about the characters in the story.

Now it's **Your Turn!** Read ***The Big Hike***. Create your own *Think Aloud* and *T-Chart*.

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



Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about hiking. Consider what you've learned about characterization through the character's conversation with others. Share your thoughts with your family and friends.

While You Read:

Ask your parent, brother, sister, or friend to read this story with you. See if together you can determine the public and private traits that authors use to reveal their characters through their dialogue with others. 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:

- Think about how you can identify the character traits revealed by the author through the character's conversations with others from the story you read.
- Discuss your ideas with your family or friends. Together, create a collaborative Think Aloud about how you used the character's conversation in the story to determine the public and private traits of the character. Share your *thinking* with each other.

The Big Hike

Tonya fastened her sleeping bag to her backpack, and laced up her hiking boots.

"Ten days hiking the Appalachian Trail," said Dad. "What do you think of no phone, no TV, and no hot showers?"

"I can't wait, Dad!" said Tonya. "After all, we've done marathon bike rides, and we taught ourselves to sail. This experience is totally different!"



Dad smiled. "It's awesome how you love nature and welcome a challenge, too."

"Mom's the same way, isn't she?" asked Tonya.

Dad nodded. "Those are a few of the reasons why she enlisted in the military."

Tonya opened a compartment of her backpack, and pulled out a photo of her mom.

"You miss her, don't you?" asked dad.

"I know Mom's deployed right now," said Tonya, "but she'll be with us on the trail, every step of the way."



Create a T-Chart:

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



Compare your Think Aloud with Kambry's Think Aloud:

Kambry'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 sentence, I read, "Tonya fastened her sleeping bag to her backpack, and laced up her hiking boots," and then her dad states, "ten days hiking the Appalachian Trail." I'm thinking Tonya must be a camper and a hiker since she is using a sleeping bag, wearing hiking boots, and going hiking on the Appalachian Trail. I know these are public traits about Tonya because I can observe them. I will record "camper" and "hiker" on my T-chart under the public column. When I realize that Tonya can't wait to go even though there will be no phone, no TV, or hot showers and read, "It's awesome how you love nature," I'm thinking Tonya must be a nature lover. I record "nature lover" under the private column because it describes an inner feeling.

I'm also thinking Tonya must be a bike rider and enjoys sailing because as I continue reading, her dad reminds her of their "marathon bike rides" and the sailing excursions they've done. Both "rides bike" and "sails" are public traits that I can add to my T-chart. I'm also thinking that Tonya is a risk-taker because her dad says she "welcomes a challenge." I will record "risk-taker" under the private column. When I read, "Mom's the same way, isn't she?" I understand that Tonya is curious about her mother. I will record "curious" under the private column because it describes an inner feeling.

Near the end of the story when Tonya pulls out the photo of her mother and her dad asks if she misses her mom, I know that is another trait about Tonya. Since missing a person is a feeling I know that it is a private trait. I will record "misses her mom" under that private column. In the last sentence, I read, "I know Mom's deployed right now, but she'll be with us on the trail, every step of the way," I understand that Tonya is thoughtful. She is thinking of her mom as she and her dad take this hiking adventure together. On my T-chart, I will record the word "thoughtful" under the private column.

The Big Hike

Tonya fastened her sleeping bag to her backpack, and laced up her hiking boots.

"**Ten days hiking the Appalachian Trail,**" said Dad. "What do you think of **no phone, no TV, and no hot showers?**"

"**I can't wait,** Dad!" said Tonya. "After all, we've done **marathon bike rides,** and we **taught ourselves to sail.** This experience is totally different!"



Dad smiled. "**It's awesome how you love nature** and **welcome a challenge,** too."

"**Mom's the same way, isn't she?**" asked Tonya.

Dad nodded. "Those are a few of the reasons why she enlisted in the military."

Tonya opened a compartment of her backpack, and **pulled out a photo of her mom.**

"**You miss her, don't you?**" asked dad.

"**I know Mom's deployed right now,**" said Tonya, "**but she'll be with us on the trail, every step of the way.**"



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

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

Public Traits	Private Traits
camper	nature lover
hiker	risk-taker
rides bike	curious
sails	misses her mom
	thoughtful

Questions to Think and Talk About:

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