

Character

Apply In:

"Under the Sea," page 4

1 Reteach

Ask a boy and a girl to role-play as you begin a story:

- ▶ **Lars loves bugs. He watches ants carry food. He watches bees buzz from flower to flower. It makes him happy to watch them work. Lars's sister, Anna is angry. Lars was supposed to help her clean. But he is outside watching bugs! Anna yells out the window at Lars.**

Then say: **Lars and Anna are the characters in this story. Characters are the people in a story. What characters do is called *actions*. Why they do things is called *motives*.**

Then display and discuss this chart:

Character	Actions	Motives
To find characters, ask: Who is in the story?	To find characters' actions, ask: What do they do?	To find characters' motives, ask: Why do they do that?

Have students use the chart to identify the characters' actions and motives. For example, ask:

- ▶ **What does Lars like to do?** (watch bugs work)
- ▶ **Why does he do this?** (It makes him happy.)
- ▶ **What does Anna do?** (cleans, yells at Lars)
- ▶ **What is her motive for yelling?** (She is angry.)

2 Practice with a Partner

Have partners tell each other stories about someone in their family. Then they can discuss the characters' actions and motives.

Character

3 Apply

Distribute copies of the **Character Bookmark** and “Under the Sea.” Explain that students should refer to the Bookmark as they listen or read. Then form groups.

- ▶ **Beginning Readers** listen as you read the story aloud.
- ▶ **More Fluent Readers** read the story silently.

After reading, have students identify the characters, their actions, and their motives. Use the **Multi-Level Strategies** to involve students at all proficiency levels.

BEGINNING	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
Ask students questions with embedded answers about characters and their motives: Does Finn swim to a different part of the sea because he is lonely or because he is scared?	Have students answer questions about the characters and their motives, in using complete sentences: Why does Finn swim to a different part of the sea? Who is Swirl?	Have students make statements about characters' actions, and then question a partner about the characters' motives. For example: <i>Swirl swims up to Finn. Why does she do this?</i>

Record students' ideas in a character chart, for example:

Characters	Actions	Motives
Finn	<i>swims to a different part of the sea</i>	<i>feels lonely and wants to find a friend</i>

Have partners use the chart to tell or show what the characters do throughout the story, and why.

CLOSE AND ASSESS

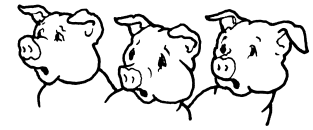
Have students define character (who is in the story), actions (what they do), and motives (why they do it).

Character

A **character** is a person or an animal in a story. A character's words and actions show what the character is like. In the story "The Three Little Pigs," the wolf and pigs are characters.



The wolf is mean.



The pigs are scared.

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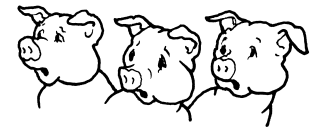


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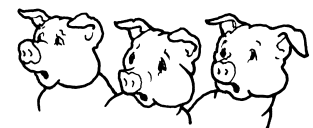


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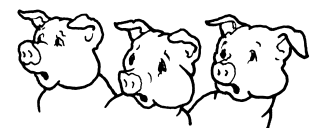


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Under the Sea

Finn was lonely. The ocean was so big, and he was so small. He wanted to find a new friend.

So, one day, Finn swam to a different part of the sea.

Finally he came to a fantastic place. Everything was so unusual. Finn saw beautiful plants that swayed like feathers in the water. There were seashells of every shape and size. Then Finn saw a scary gray shadow. It was drifting toward him!

Finn thought of the most dangerous predator in the sea—the shark. Was he going to become a shark’s prey?

All of a sudden, two eyes appeared in front of Finn.

“Hi! I’m Swirl,” a fish said. Blue, black, and white swirls covered her side. “Do you want to play with me?” she asked.

Finn was so relieved. “I thought you were a shark!” he said.

“No,” Swirl replied. “I was just looking for a friend. I’m kind of lonely here in the sea.”

“Me, too,” Finn laughed. Then he did a happy flip in the water. “Come on, Swirl. Let’s play!”