

## Characterization Readers Theatre Script

Developed by Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn with Ms. Gebhardt's Class  
Matthew Henson Middle School Charles County, Maryland

1	Drum roll please! [sound effect]	All	Uh-uh. [gesture]
2	Sit back, [sound effect] [gesture]	6-8	Guess not.
3	Relax, [sound effect] [gesture]	19	So the author helps us by
4	And most importantly—Listen! [gesture]	6-8	describing Papa Bois's looks? Yup.
5	Yes! Today's fascinating Language Arts topic is... [sound effect]	20	But don't forget thoughts and feelings. [sound effect] [gesture]
All	Characterization!	21	Authors often express a character's mood.
6-8	What's characterization?	22	Remember when Papa Bois felt lonely by himself in the woods?
9	Characterization is	23	So he went to the market and got treated well and then he felt
10	The way an author presents a character in a story.	All	Friendly! [gesture]
6	Ohhhhh! And how might that be?	21	So he gave Tantie beads and string.
All	A character's appearance, thoughts, speech patterns, and deeds.	22	Sometimes readers learn a character's thoughts and feelings because the author describes them.
6-8	Ummmmm...a little help here.... In other words--How a character looks, thinks, feels, speaks, and acts,	23	But sometimes the characters themselves do the describing through
6-8	Ohhhhh, how a character looks, thinks, feels, and acts!	1-15	Dialogue.
7	What do you mean by looks? What the character looks at?	15-30	Dialogue—what the characters say.
All	No!	18	Through dialogue, readers make their own inferences about characters.
11	Looks as in outer appearance.	19	Back to "The Bamboo Beads." You know that Tantie is Spanish because she says
12	Clothing or hair style. [gesture]	All	Hasta la vista, Baby!
13	Hair color, eye color, skin color. [gesture]	19	No! She says "Chili" and "de" (day)
14	Size, shape, gender, species.	20	That's "chile" and "de." Tantie isn't Spanish!
8	How does that explain anything?	21	The setting of this story is Trinidad, an island in the West Indies, north east of South America.
15	Okay, take Papa Bois in the story "The Bamboo Beads."	22	And what do you imagine about the story's narrator who says, "I wish I had brothers and sisters to plant flowers for or to count stars on."
16	You can tell he's old and poor because he wore dingy, ragged clothes,	1	
17	And no shoes and...	2	
All	He had cow hooves for feet!		
6-8	Cow hooves?		
All	Got milk? Mooooooooo!		
18	Right. Now, would the character be that interesting if he had ordinary feet?		

18	You know the narrator is lonely when she says to Papa,	10	And when Tantie is so nice to Papa Bois that he gave her a necklace, we know he's
19	"I'm tired of only having myself."		
3	And Mama's dialogue tells us lots about Papa Bois:	All	Generous!
4	"He can be very dangerous. Once he meets someone, he keeps track of them by counting their sins, their blessings, even their teeth on his whittled beads." [sound effect]	11	To review
	Dialogue – Just Say It! [gesture]	12	Characterization is
All	How about the way a character acts?	All	The way an author presents a character in a story.
6	The character's deeds?	13	And how might that be?
5	Yes, what do deeds or actions tell?	All	How a character looks, thinks, feels, speaks, and acts.
6	Okay, when Papa Bois knows exactly when and where to put the bamboo beads, we know he's	14	As revealed through Appearance, Dialogue, And deeds!
5	Clever!	15	Well done!
All	And when he speaks both English and French, we know he's	16	And that's it for today's presentation on Characterization!
9	Bi-lingual!	17	Join us tomorrow when the fascinating Language Arts topic will be:
All		All	Omniscient Point of View!