

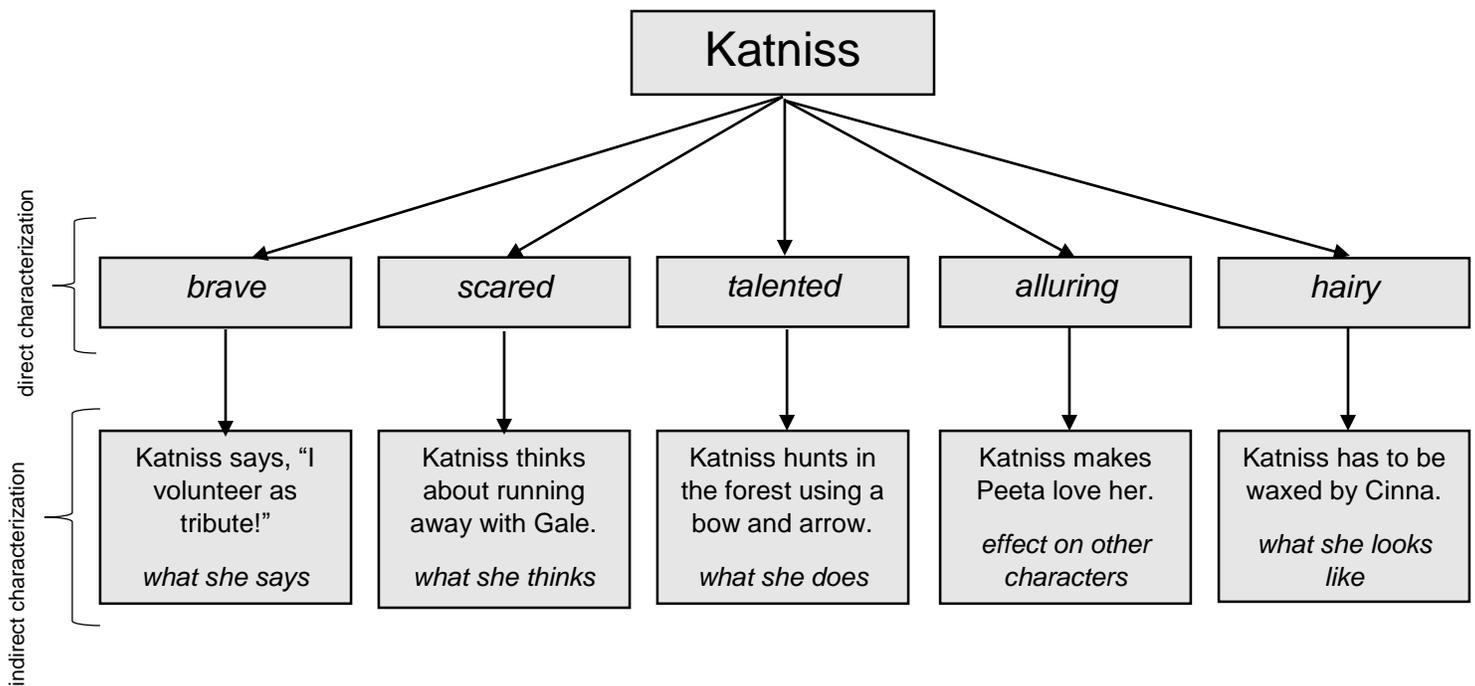
Characterization in the Hunger Games: Building a Tribute

A **character** is a person¹ in a piece of literature. Characters help us to feel connected to a story – we can identify with them (see ourselves in them), admire them, learn from their choices, and connect them to people we know in our daily lives. **Characterization** is the process of making the character feel “real” to the reader.

There are two major methods for developing a character. **Direct characterization** is when the author *tells* the reader about the character by using abstract *labels*. For example, if Suzanne Collins wrote, “Katniss is brave,” that would be direct characterization because she makes the judgment about what kind of person Katniss is.

Indirect characterization, on the other hand, is when the author *shows* the reader what the character is like by using concrete *examples* – these can include 1) what the character says, 2) what the character thinks, 3) what the character does, 4) how the character affects other characters in the story, and 5) what the character looks like.

Consider the following chart of Katniss’s character:



For this assignment, you will create a tribute character of your own! Your tribute will be your **protagonist** (the main character, oftentimes the hero of the story, and the person that the reader feels closest to).

Eventually, you will fight your tribute against other students’ characters, who will be your **antagonists** (the opponent, competitor, or rival of the protagonist, and oftentimes the villain).

¹ Although not necessarily a *human* person! Aliens, elves, and bunnies can all be characters too.

Step 1: Create your tribute card.

Before characterizing your tribute, you need to decide on some basic biographical details.

- Go to <http://imgur.com/gallery/OBLXn> to look at some District propaganda posters to get inspired.
- Choose a District for your tribute based on the list below:



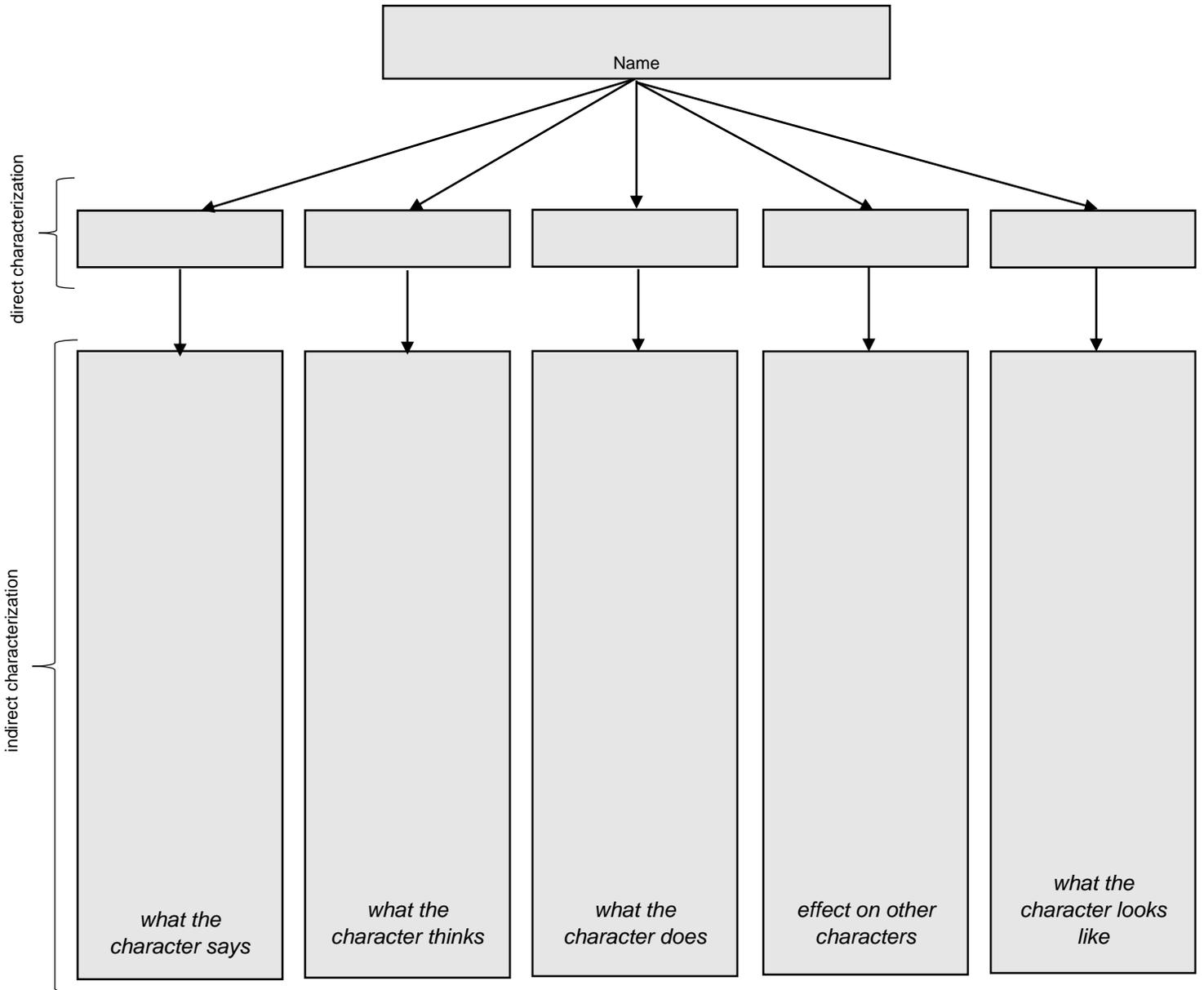
- District 1: luxury items
- District 2: masonry
- District 3: technology
- District 4: fishing
- District 5: energy
- District 6: transportation
- District 7: lumber
- District 8: textiles
- District 9: grain
- District 10: livestock
- District 11: agriculture
- District 12: coal

Fill out the following tribute card.

	GOVERNMENT OF PANEM	
	NAME	DISTRICT
	AGE	GENDER
tribute face sketch		
TRAINING SCORE (1-12)	SPECIAL SKILLS	

Step 2: Characterize your tribute!

You can use the list of character traits on the next page to help you come up with words for the direct characterization row.

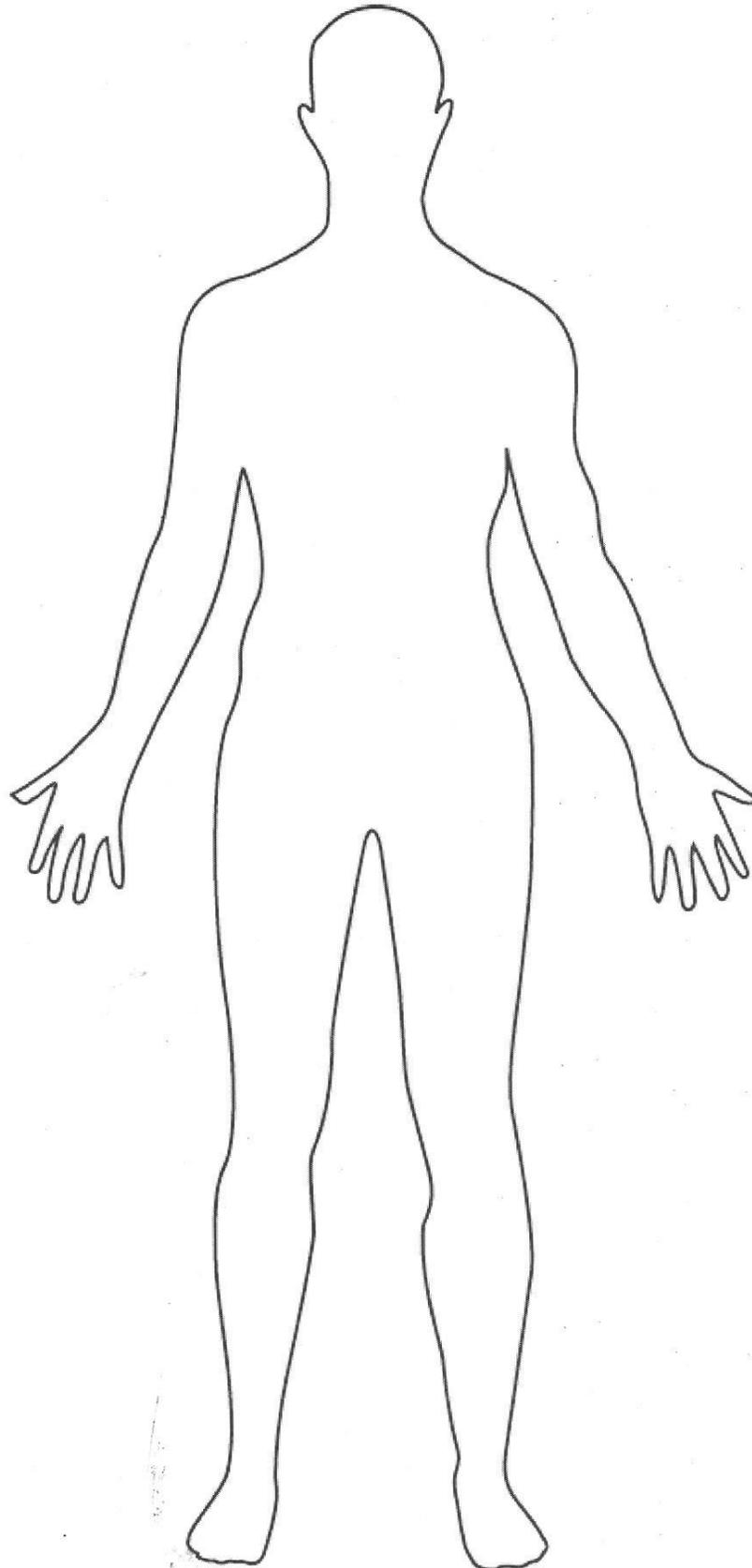


Character Trait Words

accepting	adventurous	aggressive	ambitious
anxious	bold	bossy	bright
brave	calm	caring	cautious
clever	cheerful	committed	competitive
conceited	considerate	cooperative	courageous
courteous	creative	curious	daring
deceitful	demanding	dependable	determined
dignified	disagreeable	dramatic	dreamer
eager	efficient	eloquent	energetic
enthusiastic	faithful	friendly	funny
generous	glum	gentle	gracious
grouchy	gullible	handsome	hard-working
helpful	honorable	honest	hopeful
humble	humorous	industrious	imaginative
impolite	impulsive	independent	impulsive
innocent	intelligent	intolerant	inventive
joyful	lazy	leader	logical
loving	loyal	malicious	mature
mean	messy	miser	mischievous
moody	naive	naughty	neat
nervous	obedient	obnoxious	observant
optimistic	patriotic	pessimistic	proud
quiet	rebellious	reckless	resolute
resourceful	respectful	responsible	rude
scary	secretive	selfish	serious
shy	silly	stubborn	studious
sympathetic	supportive	thoughtful	timid
valiant	warrior	wise	witty
worrier			

Step 3: Write a rough draft of a scene where your tribute is chosen at the Reaping in his or her District. (Consider – is your tribute’s name chosen out of the bowl? Does he or she volunteer? How does his or her family react?) Your scene must include your five pieces of indirect characterization (underline these so that your teacher can see them).

Step 4: Create a rough draft illustration of your tribute. Draw things that represent the five pieces of indirect characterization that you mentioned in your Reaping scene. You can include elements such as facial expressions, clothes, weapons, personal items, etc.



Step 5: Final Drafts

Revise your Reaping scene. [ANNIE, CAN YOU HELP ME HERE? WHAT SHOULD WE REVISE FOR?]

Your final Reaping scene must be:

- Between 300 and 500 words
- Typed
- Free of basic errors in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation
- Include your name and period on the front

Underline your five instances of indirect characterization.

Create a final illustration of your tribute. You may use a template that your teacher provides, or get creative and make one using your own art materials.

Your final tribute illustration must:

- Be neat
- Be colored
- Be detailed (don't just draw a smiley face)
- Include evidence of your five pieces of indirect characterization
- Include your name and period on the back

Step 6: Reflection

Answer all questions in complete sentences. The quality of your responses will impact your grade.

1. What did you learn from this assignment?
2. Why might an author choose to use direct characterization?
3. Why might an author choose to use indirect characterization?
4. Do you think that you did a good job on this assignment? Why or why not?

Name:

Date:

Period:

Designing a Tribute Project – Rubric

All elements will be evaluated on completion and quality.

Element	Points Possible	Points Earned
Step 1: Tribute Card	10	
Step 2: Characterization Chart	10	
Step 3: Reaping Scene Rough Draft	10	
Step 4: Tribute Illustration Rough Draft	10	
Step 5: Reaping Scene Final Copy	25	
Step 5: Tribute Illustration Final Copy	25	
Step 6: Reflection	10	

Total: _____