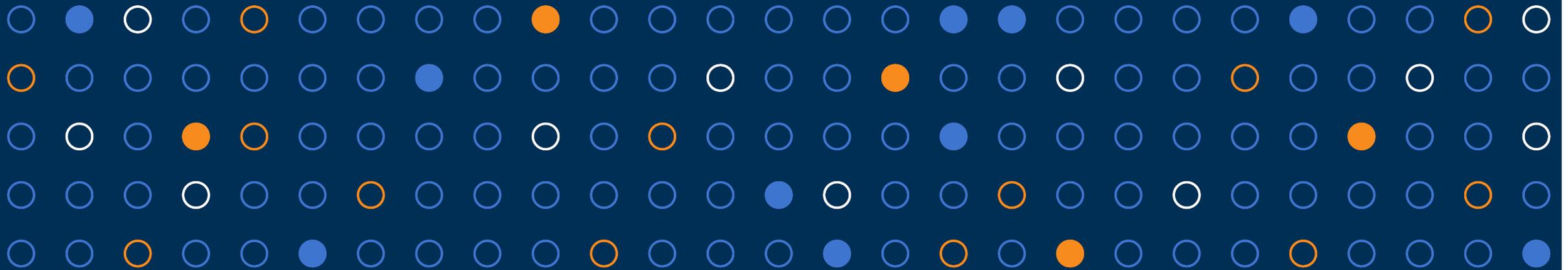


# Heroic Characters in A Lesson Before Dying



# Who are these people?

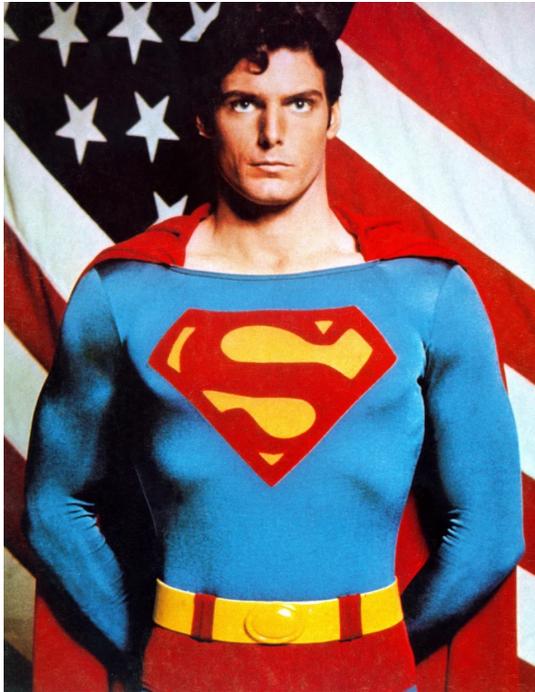


Raya, the protagonist in *Raya and the Last Dragon*



Harry Potter and his fellow wizards, Ron and Hermione

# And these people?



Superman



Black Panther



Captain Marvel

And these?



Jackie Robinson



Muhammad Ali

○ ○ What do all these people have in common? ○ ○



Marie Curie



Nelson Mandela

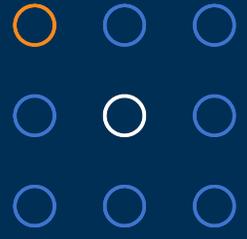


Malala Yousafzai

What one word describes each?



HERO



# What qualities must a hero possess?





# What makes an act heroic?



# Enduring Understanding

A heroic act usually involves risk and/or sacrifice.

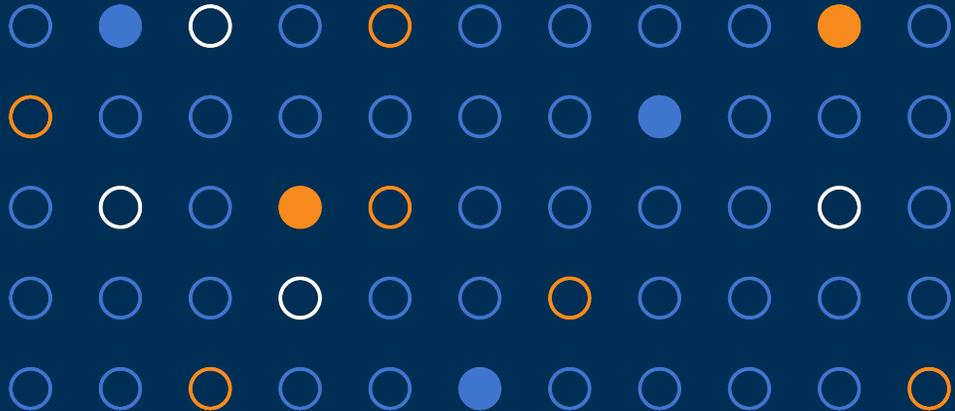
# Rank from most heroic (1) to least heroic (4)

- \_\_\_ Gymnast recovers from paralysis to win Olympic gold medal
- \_\_\_ Nazi saves 1,200 Jews during Holocaust by employing them in his factories
- \_\_\_ School teacher dies in shuttle explosion
- \_\_\_ 11-year-old boy saves little girl's life
- \_\_\_ Passengers of a hijacked airplane die while stopping terrorists' plan
- \_\_\_ Female prison inmates in California volunteer to fight dangerous wildfires
- \_\_\_ Lifeguard rescues drowning boy
- \_\_\_ Medical staff work round the clock to save COVID-19 patients

# Characterization

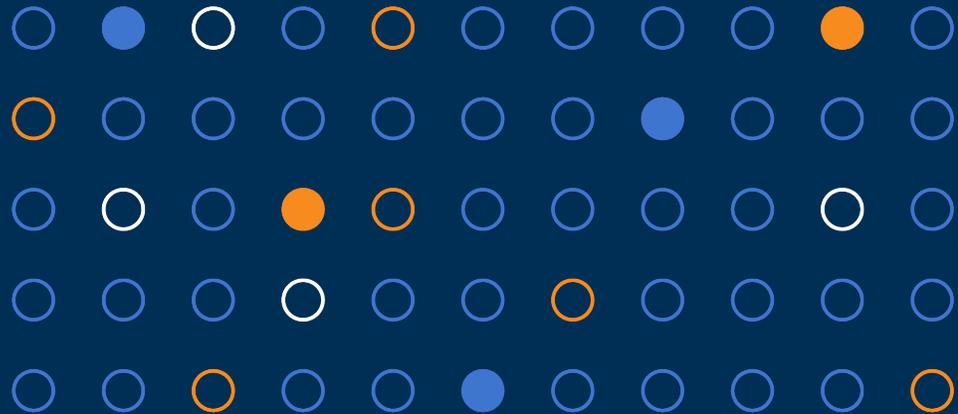
The process used by a writer to develop a character

Characterization is revealed through **direct characterization** and **indirect characterization**.



# Direct Characterization

When an author uses adjectives to *tell* what a character is like

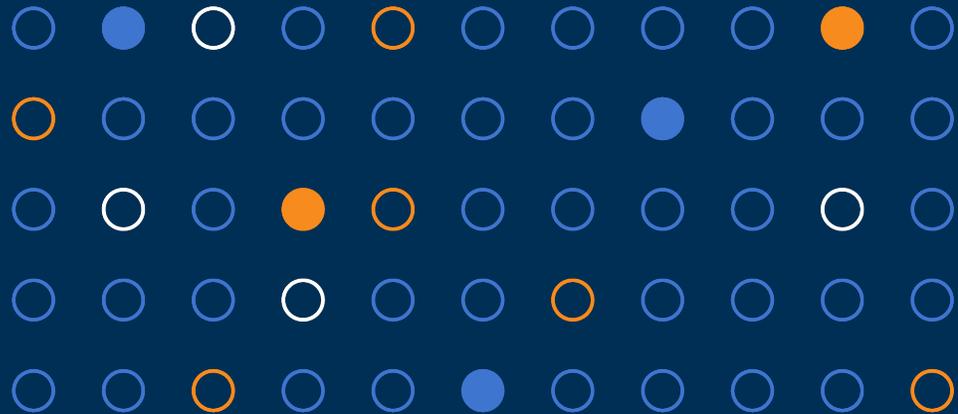


Direct characterization is used to introduce characters, reveal their motivations and provide the reader with memorable character traits.

- Physical description (e.g., blue eyes, tall)
- Job (e.g., teacher, lawyer)
- Passions or pursuits (e.g., avid reader, aspiring writer)

# Indirect Characterization

When an author uses verbs to *show* what a character is like



Use the acronym **STEAL** to remember the five methods of indirect characterization:

- **S**peech
- **T**houghts
- **E**ffect on others
- **A**ctions
- **L**ooks (appearance)

# Who is more heroic? Grant or Jefferson? Why?

- **In class:** Discuss in small groups whether Grant Wiggins or Jefferson is the more heroic character in *A Lesson Before Dying*. Find examples of direct and indirect characterization to support your assertion.
- **At home:** Determine which character ***you*** believe is more heroic and write a well-developed open response essay that supports your assertion. Be sure to include 2-3 specific details from the text.



# Image Sources

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