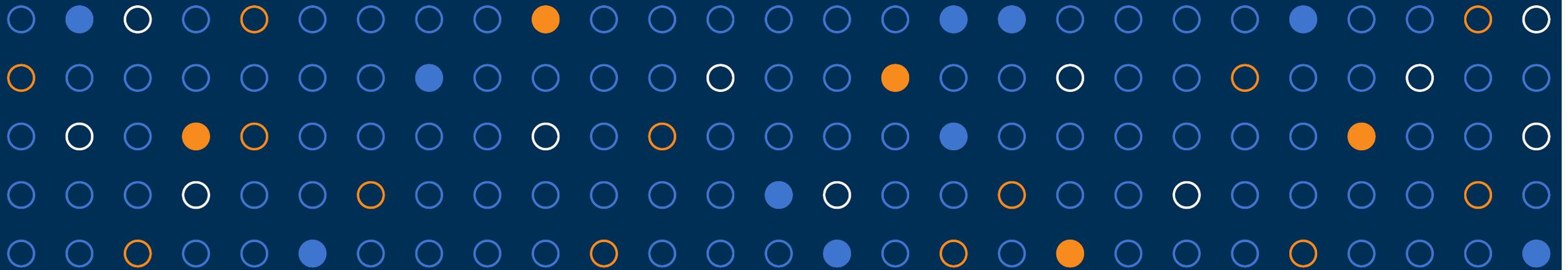


Heroic Characters in A Lesson Before Dying



Who are these people?

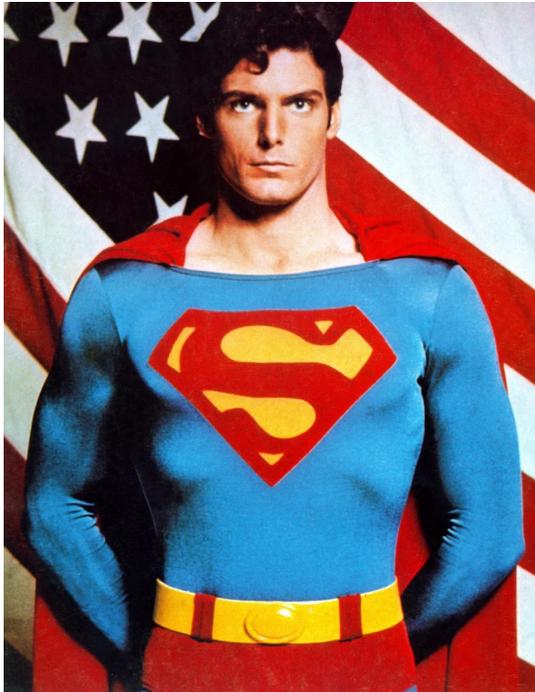


Raya, the protagonist in *Raya and the Last Dragon*



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

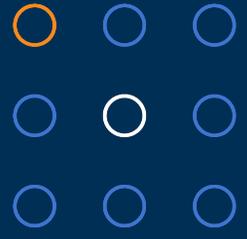


Malala Yousafzai

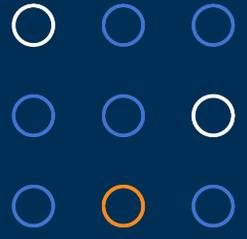
What one word describes each?



HERO



What qualities must a hero possess?





What makes an act heroic?



Enduring Understanding

A heroic act usually involves risk and/or sacrifice.

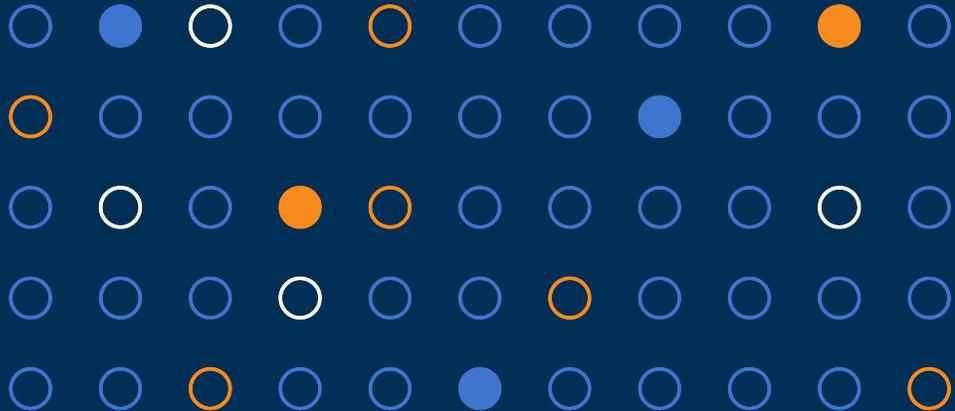
Rank from most heroic (1) to least heroic (4)

- ___ 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

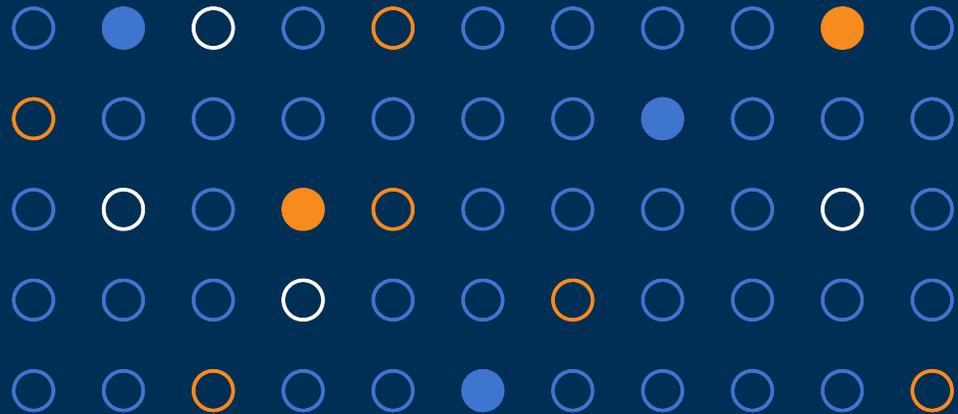
The process used by a writer to develop a character

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



Direct Characterization

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

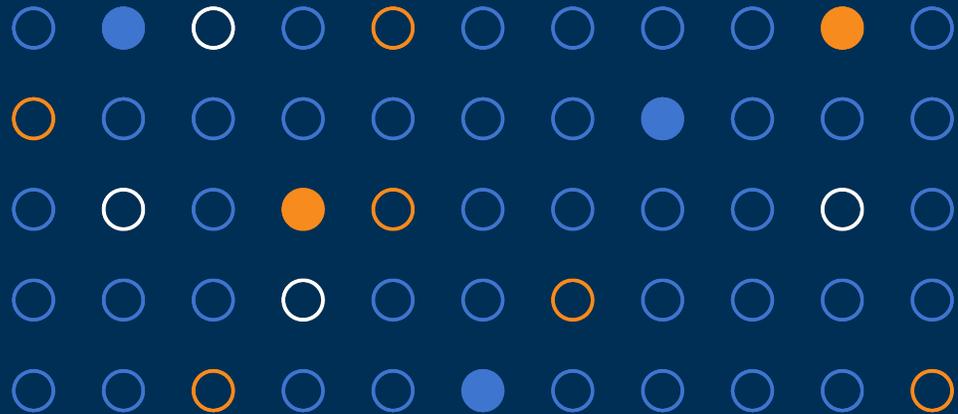


Direct characterization is used to introduce characters, reveal their motivations and provide the reader with memorable character traits.

- 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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