

Find The Clues

Character Profile

Getting to know characters, whether they're fictional or real, is one of the things that makes reading interesting. We can learn a lot about characters just from small details. Look for the clues in the following passages and see what information you can pick up. How many answers on the character profile can you provide?

When she opened her eyes in the morning it was because a young housemaid had come into her room to light the fire and was kneeling on the hearth-rug raking out the cinders noisily. Mary lay and watched her for a few moments and then began to look about the room. She had never seen a room at all like it and thought it curious and gloomy. The walls were covered with tapestry with a forest scene embroidered on it. There were fantastically dressed people under the trees and in the distance there was a glimpse of the turrets of a castle. There were hunters and horses and dogs and ladies. Mary felt as if she were in the forest with them. Out of a deep window she could see a great climbing stretch of land which seemed to have no trees on it, and to look rather like an endless, dull, purplish sea. "What's that?" she said, pointing out of the window.

Martha, the young housemaid, who had just risen to her feet, looked and pointed also.

"That there?" she said.

"Yes."

"That's th' moor," with a good-natured grin. "Does tha' like it?"

"No," answered Mary. "I hate it."

"That's because tha'rt not used to it," Martha said, going back to her hearth. "Tha' thinks it's too big an' bare now. But tha' will like it."

"Do you?" inquired Mary.

"Aye, that I do," answered Martha, cheerfully polishing away at the grate. "I just love it. It's none bare. It's covered wi' growin' things as smells sweet. It's fair lovely in spring an' summer when th' gorse an' broom an' heather's in flower. It smells o' honey an' there's such a lot o' fresh air -- an' th' sky looks so high an' th' bees an' skylarks makes such a nice noise hummin' an' singin'. Eh! I wouldn't live away from th' moor for anythin'."

Character Profile

Name: _____

Gender (male/female): _____

Age: _____

Birthplace: _____

Physical features (what does the character look like): _____

Type of home/ neighborhood: _____

Time in history: _____

Brothers and sisters: _____

Mother and father and their occupations: _____

Friends: _____

Enemies: _____

Other important people: _____

Likes and interests: _____

What bores or annoys the character?: _____

Attitude toward work or school: _____

Strongest positive personality trait: _____

Strongest negative personality trait: _____

Situation or problem the character is facing: _____





Find The Clues

Authors don't always tell you exactly where the setting is. Instead, they might give you lots of clues. See if you can find the clues in this passage that tell you what the setting is.

On and on they drove through the darkness, and though the rain stopped, the wind rushed by and whistled and made strange sounds. The road went up and down, and several times the carriage passed over a little bridge beneath which water rushed very fast with a great deal of noise. Mary felt as if the drive would never come to an end and that the wide, bleak moor was a wide expanse of black ocean through which she was passing on a strip of dry land.

Quiz Questions

1. The main character, Mary, is sitting inside a _____ that is (stopped or moving) _____.

1a. Underline the clues in red.

2. What time of day is it? A. Middle of the day B. Early morning C. Nighttime

2a. Underline the clues in blue.

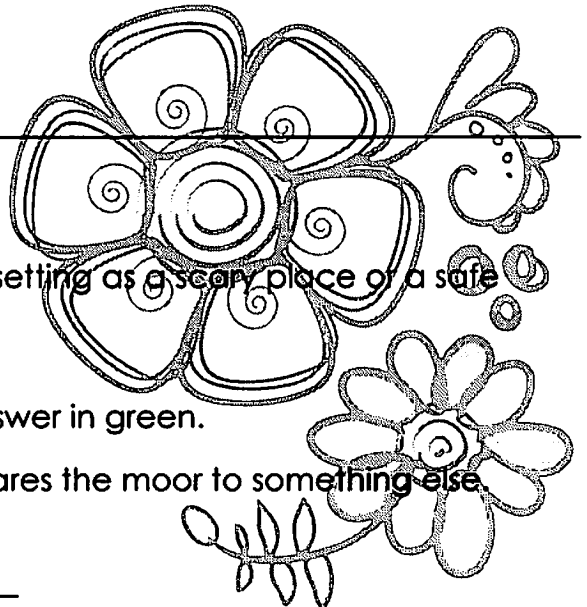
3. How would you describe the weather conditions? _____

3a. Underline the clues in yellow.

4. Do you think the author wants readers to think of this setting as a scary place or a safe place for Mary? _____

4a. Underline the words or phrases that support your answer in green.

5. Find the metaphor! In this passage the author compares the moor to something else. What is it?



Find the Clues

Draw a picture below to illustrate the setting.

