

Teaching Character Development In Literature

The 7 "E's" of Teaching Character Education

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- **Explain It** - define it, illustrate it, and discuss its importance;
- **Examine It** - in literature, history, and current events;
- **Exhibit It** - through personal example;
- **Expect It** - through codes, rules, contracts and consequences;
- **Experience It** - directly;
- **Encourage It** - through goal-setting, practice and self-assessment;



Evaluate It - give feedback



Teaching character development in literature is a fundamental aspect of literary education that enhances students' understanding of texts and the human experience. Character development is the process by which characters evolve throughout a story, influenced by their experiences, relationships, and environments. By focusing on character development, educators can engage students in deeper analysis and foster critical thinking skills. This article explores effective strategies for teaching character development, the importance of character arcs, and practical classroom activities to enhance student learning.

The Importance of Character Development in Literature

Understanding character development is crucial for several reasons:

1. **Connection to Themes:** Characters often embody the themes of a story. Their growth or regression can illustrate key messages and moral lessons that resonate with readers.
2. **Empathy and Perspective:** Engaging with characters allows students to step into different shoes, fostering empathy and understanding of diverse human experiences.
3. **Critical Analysis Skills:** Analyzing character development encourages students to think critically about motivations, conflicts, and resolutions, sharpening their analytical abilities.

4. Narrative Structure: Characters are central to narrative structure. Understanding their development aids in grasping plot progression and story arcs.