



## English I: Reading: Module 3: Lesson 11: Section 5

### Complex Characters

### Character Development

**Instructions :** Using the scenario and the characters provided, write a story and develop one character as a foil, one as a flat character, and one character as a round character. Use both direct and indirect characterization. When you are finished, scroll down to page three to answer questions about how you developed your story.



**Scenario:** Susan, Joe, and Nicole are walking home from school when one of the kids sees a glass bottle in the vacant lot. Picking up the bottle, one of the kids (you choose) takes a piece of paper out of the bottle and begins to read it. You continue the story.

**Your story:**

[Click for a possible response.](#)



***Here is one possible response:***

Susan pushes her glasses back on her nose and, squinting into the sunlight, begins to unfold the paper. Her sister Nicole, jumping from one foot to another, tries to grab it from her, saying “Here let me have it; let me read it first.” Joe, their little brother who has just started kindergarten, sits down in the dirt. Susan successfully fends off Nicole. She clears her throat and reads slowly and calmly, “Whoever finds this paper has in his or her possession the keys to happiness and an abundance of riches.”

Nicole is able to grab the paper from Susan now. Holding the paper close to her chest Nicole shouts, “Now I have the keys to happiness. I will soon be supremely wealthy.” As she dances around her sister she chants, “It’s all mine now. It’s all mine now.” Nicole then runs away with the paper. Susan reaches down, pulls Joe up from the dirt, and they continue walking home.

Susan can’t stop thinking about the contents of the paper. She is completely preoccupied. When they reach the curb, Joe jerks his hand from Susan’s grasp and darts in front of a passing car. The driver swerves and slams on the brakes missing Joe, who has stopped in the middle of the street, by inches. Susan runs to him to make sure he is unhurt. She is, as always, the older sister. She is upset that Joe could have been injured or killed while in her care.

Nicole, having heard the screech of the brakes and the honking horn, flies back to her sister and brother. Tears are spilling down her cheeks. She looks at Susan and Joe, sees that they are both unhurt, and flings the precious paper on the ground. “I am so selfish,” she cries. “When I heard the brakes screeching and the horn honking, I thought the worst had happened. I realized I already had the keys to happiness and everything I need right here with the two of you. I think that’s what the paper meant—that we all have the keys to our own happiness. Sometimes we just have to be reminded.”

Susan and Joe began to walk toward the house as with Nicole between them holding each of their trembling hands.

As you read the sample response, you notice that Nicole is a foil to Susan. She is also a round character as she changes at the end of the story from a selfish little girl into someone who realizes that riches don’t necessarily mean money. Little brother Joe is the flat character as he begins the and ends story without the reader learning anything much about him. We see direct characterization when Nicole speaks, and we see indirect characterization with the description of Susan and her actions. Now scroll down to the next page to answer questions about how you developed your story.



1. How did you go about describing one or more of the characters so that he/she appears round? What elements did you use to characterize him/her?

2. What did you do in the story to make sure one of your characters is flat? What method did you use to characterize him/her?