

Nice Meeting You

5 Exercises for Character Development

Developing characters for stories can be a blast, especially, when your characters are based on real life people and everyday occurrences. Let your imagination explode as you create whimsical, serious, calm or over-the-top players in your story.

Upper Grades

5 Exercises for Character Development

1. **Take a Walk in My Shoes.** Tell participants to bring in 1 shoe. Place all shoes together, and collectively describe who walks, runs, dances, or works in each shoe. Break out into groups, putting 3 shoes in each. Create dialogue between the characters and detail their physicality.
2. **The Advocates.** Place 4 civic causes in a hat. Place 4 hobbies in a hat. Each student selects one cause and one hobby. Students create a character who is preparing a speech for their cause. Break into groups by hobby. Create dialogue between the characters as they advocate for the causes while simulating the hobby.
3. **Teen Summit.** Choose 3 different homes (exterior) from magazines or the internet. Create and descriptively write about a teen's bedroom in each. Have the residents meet at a teen summit and dialogue. Have other students ask questions and guess which home belongs to each character.
4. **Seat at the Table.** Research and read about 3 historical figures. Have the characters converse about foodways, lifestyle and culture at a dinner table.
5. **Only Human.** Add specific ticks or habits while eating, sleeping, or grooming to each of the characters above.

Resources

University Writing Center [Character Development: Creative Writing](#)

Sambuchino, Chuck [The Nine Ingredients of Character Development](#)

Baldwin Jackie, and Kate Dudding [Storytelling in Schools](#)

Agatuci, Cori [African Storytelling](#)

Anchor Standards CCS ELA

CCRA.R. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10
CCRA.W 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10
CCRA.L 1, 2, 3, 5, 6
CCRA.SL 1, 2, 3, 4, 6



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