

Characterization: the way an author creates a character

direct characterization: the author makes specific, explicit statements about characters

"He looked like a cartoon of a person laughing..." p. 187 Kenny

"Tub was for trying someplace different..." p. 188 Tub

"Tub had trouble getting through the fences." p. 189

"Frank and Kenny could have helped him...but they didn't." p. 189 Frank and Kenny

"He heard his heart and felt..." p. 190 Tub

"They had taken a different turn a long way back." p. 201

In each of these examples the author is making explicit statements about his characters. Wolff is not asking you to draw conclusions about the characters; he is giving you information--unlike indirect characterization which is implicit.

indirect characterization: the author shows us the character through their words, actions, and interaction with others

From the words, actions, and interactions with other characters, readers can draw conclusions about characters.

Kenny--words--"He looks just like a beach ball with a hat on, doesn't he?" p. 187--Kenny makes fun of someone who is supposed to be his friend

"Next thing you will be wearing a nightgown, Frank..." p.188

Actions--after Frank's comment p.188--"Kenny laughed."--does not respect his friends and/or does not keep their confidences

"Kenny looked out of the rear window and grinned." p. 191--grinning at joking and playing around at Tub's expense

"Kenny swore and threw down his hat..." p. 192 What does this paragraph show us about Kenny?

Reactions of other characters--Look at all of the interaction between Kenny and Tub. Are you surprised Tub shot Kenny? All of this is part of indirect characterization--as readers, we draw certain conclusions about each character.

Frank--words--"Look, I'm sorry..." p. 196--seems to really care that he hurt Tub's feelings

"No, I really had that coming..." p. 197-- recognizes that he has been self absorbed

Actions--"The brightness in Frank's eyes..." p.198--Is this a sign of sensitivity?

Orders pancakes for Tub...p.200 What does this say about him? What are Frank's motives here.

"He spread his feet and closed his eyes..." p. 188-- what is this side of Frank?

Interaction with Tub and Kenny...Look for specific things that show the type of friend Frank is.

What does Frank's relationship with the babysitter say about him? Immature?needy?definitely not normal our eyes

Tub--words--"I used to stick up for you." p. 191--feels betrayed by Frank

"It's my glands." p. 189-- makes excuses

Actions--shoots Kenny without really thinking p.193 what kind of person does this?

Interactions--note that Tub allows Kenny to continually make fun of him Why are they friends? What does this say about Tub?