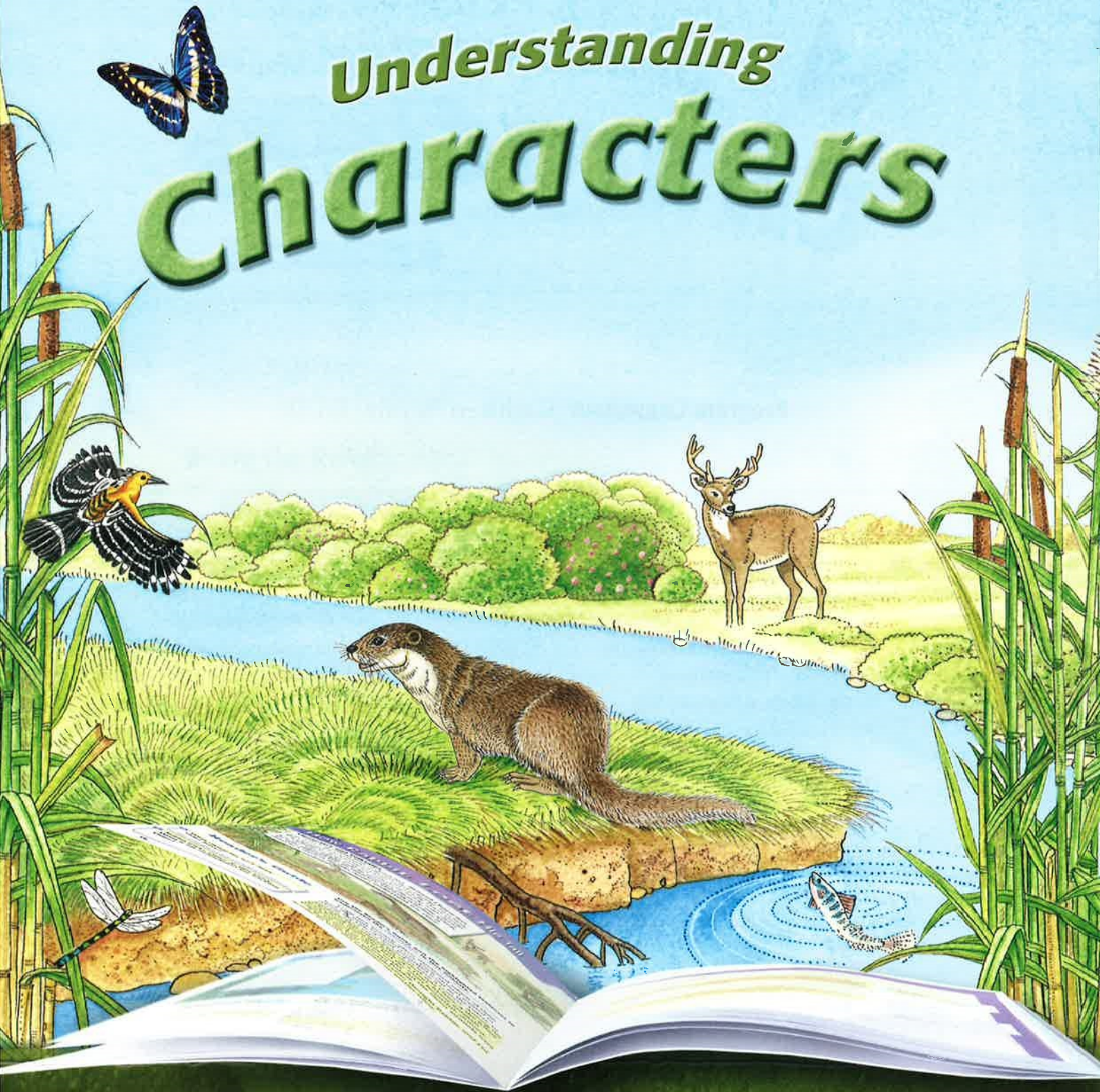




Critical Reading

Differentiated Instruction Across Genres

Understanding characters



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Use Strategies to Understand What You Read

Sometimes you read to enjoy a good story. At other times you read to learn something new. No matter why you read, you need to **understand what you read**.

Using **reading strategies** will deepen your understanding of what you read. Use the strategies below to understand the reading selections in this book.

Before You Read

- ◆ Think about **why** you will read the selection.
- ◆ **Preview** the selection.
- ◆ Think about how the selection is **organized**.
- ◆ Think about what you **already know**.
- ◆ For a fiction selection, **predict** what the story is about and what will happen. For a nonfiction selection, **predict** what the selection is about and what information you will find.
- ◆ **Plan** how you will read the selection.

While You Read

- ◆ Make sure you **understand** what you are reading. If not, **make** some changes. For example, reread what doesn't make sense.
- ◆ **Ask yourself questions** about what you are reading.
- ◆ **Make connections** between what is in the selection and what you already know.
- ◆ Pay attention to **different kinds of type**, such as dark, or bold, type. Think about why it's different.
- ◆ Study any **pictures, photos, captions, charts, or graphs**.
- ◆ Create a **mental picture** of important details in the selection.

After You Read

- ◆ Think about **your predictions**. Were your predictions right?
- ◆ **Answer questions** about what you read.
- ◆ **Organize** important parts or details from the selection.
- ◆ **Summarize** the selection.

Lesson 1

The Prince Who Wouldn't Listen

Character Traits and Fantasy

Character traits are a character's feelings and behaviors. To discover a character's traits, readers can ask themselves these questions:

What does the character think, say, and do?

What do other characters say *to* the character? What do they think and say *about* the character?

A **fantasy** is a story with major events that are not possible in the real world. The characters in a fantasy may be unreal creatures or have unusual powers. Knowing the characters well helps readers **understand** the story.



Reader's Guide

glint a small, bright shine

What **character trait** of Haro's is revealed by Ping's words?

Use the Reader's Guide and the highlighted sentences to understand the **characters** in this fantasy.

"Ping, wake up!" cried Prince Haro. "A giant white owl just flew into the Forbidden Forest, and I must catch it!"

The small dragon yawned and turned over. The room high in the castle was dark except for a **glint** of moonlight falling through the open window. "My dear prince, I believe you've been told many times that you're not supposed to go into the Forbidden Forest alone," said Ping sleepily.

"I don't care," said Haro. "I'm prince, aren't I? I want that white owl!"

Reluctantly Ping followed Haro out of the castle, and they dashed into the Forbidden Forest. "My dear prince, I know you're not interested in advice from others, but please turn back," Ping pleaded.

"I know what I'm doing," Haro replied **arrogantly**. "Look for the owl!"

Using the light of the moon, Haro and Ping looked in the trees for the white owl until their eyes ached, and they were utterly lost. Haro felt a pang of hunger and snatched a cluster of red berries from a nearby bush.

"Is it wise to eat strange berries from unknown bushes in dark forests?" asked Ping.

"It's *my* forest and I'm hungry!" said Haro grumpily.

No sooner had Haro swallowed the berries than he began to disappear. In seconds a chunky gray rock sat where he had stood.

"I warned you, Haro!" an **exasperated** Ping cried. "Why won't you listen?"

● Ping picked up the Haro-rock in his huge claws and carried it back to the castle. It was nearly dawn when he landed in the courtyard, where he gently placed the Haro-rock. He found the entire court in an uproar about the disappearance of the prince. Ping spied Haro's aunt in the center of the crowd and nudged her lightly.

"Not now, Ping," said Lady Fer. "We have to find Prince Haro. Oh, that boy is so difficult. He's arrogant and stubborn. He never listens! Sometimes I think the court would be better off without him."

Even as a rock, Haro could hear everything, and Lady Fer's harsh words shocked him.

Sir Rin, Haro's cousin, nodded. "He thinks he knows everything. I try to help him, but he just sneers at me. For that very reason, I detest giving him any sort of advice on finding his way in the forest. That boy is nothing but trouble."

Haro felt very sorry for himself when he heard Sir Rin's words. Then an uneasy feeling crept into his heart.

● What **character trait** of Haro is revealed by Ping's words?

arrogantly in a way showing too much pride

exasperated irritated and discouraged

● Underline Haro's **character traits** revealed by Lady Fer.

● What do you learn about Haro from Sir Rin's words?



He began to suspect that there was truth in what he was hearing about himself. 🍎

Queen Hona walked past the crowd, sobbing, and paused next to Ping. “Ping, can you tell us anything about Haro?” asked the queen.

Ping pointed at the rock and said, “He devoured some berries in the forest.”

“Oh, my poor son!” Queen Hona wailed as she threw herself upon the Haro-rock, weeping. As one of Queen Hona’s tears rolled down the rock, Haro began to emerge from the rock in human form.

Haro’s mother embraced him, and Haro apologized for disobeying the rule about the forest. Haro then turned to Lady Fer and Sir Rin and said in a quiet voice, “I’m very sorry I have been so difficult. I promise I will try to become a better prince.”

That night, as Haro sat at his window with Ping by his side, he spotted a large bird flying across the full moon. “It’s the giant white owl!” he cried.

“I would advise you not to chase after it, dear prince,” said Ping.

Haro nodded. “Good idea, Ping. I think I’ll take your advice this time.”

🍎 What does Haro do differently at the end of the story?

🍎 **Read Fluently** 🍎 Reread the fluency section aloud to a partner. Use your voice to show the characters’ feelings.

Check Your Understanding

Circle the letter for the best answer to each question.

1. Which **character traits** best describe Haro at the beginning of the story?
 - A Nervous and depressed
 - B Lazy and clumsy
 - C Grumpy and cruel
 - D Self-centered and stubborn
2. One of Haro's **character traits** gets him into trouble when—
 - A he won't listen to Ping's warnings.
 - B Sir Rin won't help him.
 - C he says something rude to Lady Fer.
 - D he listens to the words of Sir Rin.
3. Haro decides to change because—
 - A he doesn't want to turn back into a rock.
 - B he is able to see himself as others see him.
 - C he sees his mother crying.
 - D he wants Ping to be his friend again.

Deepen Your Understanding

Write your answers on the lines.

4. What do Ping's actions reveal about him?

5. How could Haro become a better person?

From Reading to Writing

On separate paper, write at least one paragraph that explains how Prince Haro changes during the story. Give examples from the story to support what you say about him.

Plan Your Writing Complete the chart below to get ready to write.

Character Trait	Example
Haro at the Beginning of the Story	
Haro at the End of the Story	

For the Best Score

- I explain how Haro changes in the story.
- I tell what Haro is like at the beginning of the story.
- I tell what Haro is like at the end of the story.
- I include examples from the story.