

EVERY BOOK TELLS A STORY

Name: _____

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MAJOR AND MINOR CHARACTERS

Every book has characters in it. It is through the characters that a story unfolds. The writer gives information about the characters and as the story goes along the characters begin to "develop." They develop because the reader is given information about the characters. This information includes what the character says and does. As the character develops, the reader begins to have feelings of like or dislike about the character.

Books have both major and minor characters. Sometimes it is possible for the reader to tell right away who is going to be a major character. In a book entitled, What Happened to Mary Jane?, Mary Jane is very likely to be a major character. A major character is one who is very important to the story. Major characters usually have a lot to say and have many things happen to them.

Minor characters, on the other hand, are used by the writer simply to help tell more about a major character. Suppose Mary Jane was in a car accident and was sent to the hospital. The nurse at the hospital tells Mary Jane's mother how Mary Jane was able to survive the accident. The purpose of this nurse in the story was simply to give more information about Mary Jane; therefore, the nurse is a minor character. In another book a policeman, directing traffic on a corner would seem to be a minor character.

In the first chapter of the book you are reading list the characters that are mentioned. If not enough characters are mentioned in this chapter, use characters from the first few chapters. Put a check mark if you believe you found out some important things about this person. Put another check mark if you believe you could remember some of the things this character said or did. In the last column write *major*, *minor* or *very minor* depending upon whether you think the character is going to be a major character, a minor character of some importance, or a very minor character who was just mentioned in order to tell something about one of the major characters. You might later change your mind about the decisions you made about these characters.

CHARACTER	I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS CHARACTER	I HAD SOME FEELINGS ABOUT THIS CHARACTER	THE CHARACTER IS MAJOR, MINOR, OR VERY MINOR
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____