

**Book Character Traits**

**Summarizing**

**Iditarod/Silver**

Poetry

Click on a tab.

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### **Book character traits:**

The interactive "Character Scrapbook" is a great way to engage students and help them form a deeper understanding of a book's characters. It works with almost any fiction or nonfiction book, and can be used individually or as a whole class.

On one side of the [scrapbook](#), students will create an image of the character, including animal characters, by simply clicking or dragging their mouse to create features.

Students can also [print a blank version](#) to draw their character from scratch.

On the other side of the scrapbook, students will identify and list important character traits using the arrows to click through various themes and selecting lists that best suit their character.

### **Learning Objectives**

While participating in the Character Scrapbook project, students become proficient with several of standards-based skills.

Discuss and identify different types of character traits for characters in a fiction or nonfiction book

Generate lists of traits about a specific character in a book that the class or student is reading

Create a scrapbook featuring a personalized image and character traits of the character.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/scrapbook/>

This tool can be used for any character whether real or make believe. Have students brainstorm their answers prior to typing their information.

### **Click on the link below to see more lesson plan activities:**

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/character-scrapbook-teachers-guide>

Another idea: Instead of using the character scrapbook, you could have students make trading cards about characters in stories using this interactive tool:

[http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/trading\\_cards\\_2/](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/trading_cards_2/)

For ideas and more specifics of how to use this tool click on the link below:

<http://sp.rpcs.org/faculty/TorresW/techsnacks/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=54>

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Station rotation: Groups of students could do this activity as a station while other groups are doing other similar activities if you only have a limited amount of devices in your room. If the lab is available, students could do this activity in the lab.

You could have the students create a bio cube/story cube Story elements. Students are prompted with questions about the character and have to type in the information to answer the prompt. They are limited in their typed response so it is an excellent summarizing tool. Once students are done inputting their information, they can print out their cubes, cut them out and add their own drawings to their creation.

[http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/cube\\_creator/](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/cube_creator/)

Here is information about this cube interactive:

- Summarizing information is an important postreading and prewriting activity that helps students synthesize what they have learned. The interactive Cube Creator offers four options:
  - Bio Cube: This option allows students to develop an outline of a person whose biography or autobiography they have just read; it can also be used before students write their own autobiography. Specific prompts ask students to describe a person's significance, background, and personality.
  - Mystery Cube: Use this option to help your students sort out the clues in their favorite mysteries or develop outlines for their own stories. Among its multiple applications, the Mystery Cube helps students identify mystery elements, practice using vocabulary from this popular genre, and sort and summarize information. Specific prompts ask students to describe the setting, clues, crime or mystery, victim, detective, and solution.
  - Story Cube: In this cube option, students can summarize the key elements in a story, including character, setting, conflict, resolution, and theme. Students can even identify their favorite part of the story. This can be used as an alternative to the [Story Map](#) interactive.
  - Create-Your-Own Cube: Working on a science unit? Doing some research on volcanoes? The Create-Your-Own Cube is your answer. This version allows teachers and students to generate their own questions or topics. Teachers can type in the questions, lock them from editing using the padlock icon, and save the file using the Save tab at the top of the screen. The saved file can then be shared with students to enter in their responses. Students can also customize cubes on topics of their choosing.

Students can save their draft cubes to revise later. See the 5-minute video tutorial [Saving Work With the Student Interactives](#) for more information on how to save, e-mail, and open a file in any of the ReadWriteThink Student Interactives. The finished cube can also be saved, printed, and folded into a fun cube shape that can be used for future reference.

For ideas of how to use this tool outside the classroom, see [Bio Cube](#) and [Mystery Cube](#) in the [Parent & Afterschool Resources](#) section.

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### Artic sled rides Silver

This online activity is a good companion tool for the book Silver. What kind of tools would you bring on the sled? Discuss the ideas with the students. As the students drag items it will let them know if it is a good item to pack or not. As students do the activity, have them keep a journal entry of the items they picked. *I picked this item because....* They can use the information given on the site to help them with this activity.

<http://www.nps.gov/webrangers/activities/packdogsled/>

Have students share their journals with the class. If you are feeling particularly creative, you could have the students discuss their reactions and thoughts to the activity. You could break students up into groups using some laptops in the classroom or use the lab. A great online tool for this type of discussion is listed below:

<http://www.iboard.co.uk/iwb/My-Thoughts-Opinions-and-Knowledge-2872>

With this site you can get student feedback. This resource can be used when you would like pupils to state their thoughts or opinions. The text frames automatically shrink the font as students type, so the resource is suitable for simple statements or longer explanations. Text frames can be presented as captions, speech bubbles or thought bubbles.

### Iditarod continued....

This site gives a great 5 day lesson on the Iditarod that contains online resources that can be used as a whole class activity, in groups, or in the lab with teacher assistance and guidance.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/iditarod/>

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## Poetry writing

This site is a great tool to help students learn about different type of poems(haikus, cinquain, limerick, free verse). Students are taught about the components of each poem. Students then click and drag different words to create different poems. Students can print out their poems.

[http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/poetry\\_engine.htm](http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/poetry_engine.htm)

## Skills:

Identifying types of poetry writing poetry using syllables and rhyme

## Practical Tips:

Display the "Poetry Idea Engine" and choose a type of poetry to teach. Each one explains the definition of the poem to assist with teaching. Have students create different poems for each type by dragging words into the blanks. After learning about each type of poem, have students create their own in groups, pairs, or individually.

Leave the poetry machine up to use at a center. Students can create a poem on the board, then write one at the center. Have students practice creating drafts of poems by having the students use the tool at home. Students can then edit their drafts in class, and class time is not taken for the prewriting stage.

In addition to these types of poems, students can also use the below tool to help them create Shape/theme and acoustic poems.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/student-interactives/theme-poems-30044.html>

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/student-interactives/acrostic-poems-30045.html>