

CHARACTER TALK ACTIVITIES

1. You, the teacher, or students should read conversation samples by distinct characters from books (i.e. Amelia Bedelia, Olivia the pig, Mo Willem's Pigeon). Hide the book inside a file folder so no one can see the book as it is read. Can others guess the character just from the characters' conversation?

2. Play a matching game. On slips of paper write names of distinct book characters. Then on other slips of paper write conversation each of those characters really said in their books. Have students try to match the character names with the conversation samples.

3. Have students practice talking FOR characters. Photocopy pictures of distinct characters from books, cut out the pictures of the characters, and mount them on paint stirrers. Then have students take turns holding up the characters as if they were puppets and talking for them using words that THAT character might really use. Discuss how students talked? Were their conversations good matches for their characters? Why or why not? How easy or hard was it to talk for their select characters?

4. Challenge students to revisit one of their own stories and rewrite one or more characters' conversations so that what the characters say better reflect who they are in the story. Have students write:

- * What the character said before
- * What the character said after the revision
- * And tell why they think the NEW conversation is better

5. Have students do the "Character Talk" activity and chart on the following page.

Your Name: _____

CHARACTER TALK

Characters in stories talk in unique ways with words that match their personalities. Read three picture books with distinct characters and fill in the chart below:

| | CHARACTER #1 | CHARACTER #2 | CHARACTER #3 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Character name/ book | | | |
| Describe the character's personality | | | |
| What would the character say ... WHEN GOING SHOPPING? | | | |
| AFTER MAKING A MISTAKE? | | | |
| ON THEIR BIRTHDAY? | | | |