Character Analysis – “Joy-Riding” by Jim Naughton

Answer Key

For each of the following characters, identify their character type and indicate how you know.

Character Types:

- **Round Character**
  - A character with many sides to his/her personality
  - An example is “Cindy R.” because we know quite a bit about her thoughts, feelings and ideas.

- **Flat Character**
  - A character with only one or two aspects to his/her personality
  - An example is any of Cindy’s “friends” because we know only a little bit about each of them.

- **Stereotype**
  - Instantly recognizable as a ”type” (dumb jock, helpless maiden,)
  - An example is the fairy godmother from the traditional version of “Cinderella” because she does exactly what one would assume a fairy godmother would do.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Proof (examples)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter (protagonist)</td>
<td>Round</td>
<td>-the reader knows many aspects of Peter’s personality, including his resentment of his mother, his admiration for Kevin, and his desire for success</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin</td>
<td>Round</td>
<td>-the reader knows about Kevin’s personal conflict regarding success, his opinion of Peter and how it changes, and his eventual decision to go for a “joy-ride”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>Flat</td>
<td>-the reader knows about Peter’s mother’s desire for him to be successful and that she doesn’t want him to harm his chances in any way. This is all the reader really knows about her.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Fairbanks</td>
<td>Stereotype</td>
<td>-Mark seems like a stereotypical athlete, with a burning desire to practise and get better. The reader doesn’t know anything else about him.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Character Traits**

**Character trait:** a specific aspect of a character’s personality

Task:
- Choose a minimum of 3 character traits each for Peter and Kevin from “Joy-Riding.” Sample traits are listed at the bottom of the page.
- Use the story and the character’s thoughts and actions to give you clues.
- Choose a quotation or example from the story that proves your character possesses the trait you’ve named and record it in the correct spot.
- The character’s thoughts, actions, feelings and dialogue will give you clues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character 1: Peter</th>
<th>Character 2: Kevin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trait 1:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quotation/Example</td>
<td>Quotation/Example</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trait 2:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trait 3:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Sample Character Traits**

- anxious
- assertive
- awkward
- brave
- calm
- caring
- clever
- committed
- confident
- considerate
- cooperative
- courageous
- courteous
- creative
- curious
- deceitful
- determined
- diligent
- dreamy
- empathetic
- enthusiastic
- fair
- flexible
- foolish
- forgiving
- friendly
- frightened
- generous
- gentle
- greedy
- helpful
- honest
- honourable
- humble
- idealistic
- intent
- joyful
- kind
- loving
- loyal
- moderate
- modest
- orderly
- patient
- peaceful
- playful
- purposeful
- reliable
- reluctant
- respectful
- responsible
- self-disciplined
- shy
- suspicious
- tactful
- thankfulness
- tolerance
- triumphant
- trust
- trustworthy
- truthfulness