Examine a character's traits through character mapping

Student handout

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| • | **Software:** Microsoft Office Visio 2007, Microsoft Office Word 2007 |
| • | **What to do: Make a map of a character**

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|  | 1. Select a character from a book that you are reading. You don't have to like the character; just make sure that it's a character that really interests you.
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|  | 1. Think about the information you know about the character. For example:
* How old is the character?
* Is the character male or female?
* How big or small is the character?
* What color hair and eyes does the character have?
* Does your character have a special talent? If so, what is it?
* How does your character move? Fast? Slow? Awkwardly?
* What kind of personality does your character have? Shy? Nervous? Bold? Funny? Loud? Talkative? Sweet? Mean? Friendly? Helpful? Athletic?
* What makes your character special or unique?

Each bit of information you know about your character is called a "character trait." Together, all the character traits make up a portrait of the character.  |
|  | 1. Open the [character map](http://download.microsoft.com/download/C/A/5/CA530CFF-B57A-4A0C-A3E9-CC9C963A61AA/Charactermap.vsd) on your classroom computer.
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| . | 1. Follow the directions on the character map. Make sure you fill in as much information about the character as possible.
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|  | 1. Check your work. Are there any traits that are missing? Have you properly identified the factual traits (the traits that the story names directly) and the inferred traits (the traits you think the story suggests the character has)?
2. Print and save your map.
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