Characterization and the STEAL method

The acronym S.T.E.A.L. can be used to break down the 5 elements of characterization.

***S****peech* – What does the character say (dialog)? How does the character speak (tone)?

***T****houghts* – What is revealed by a character’s thoughts and feelings? What motivates a character?

***E****ffects on others*– the relationships the character has with others and how characters treat each other

***A****ctions* – How does a character behave, including how they react to people and events?

***L****ooks* – What does the character look like, including physical features, clothing, body language, etc.

*Directions:* Let’s take a closer look at the character \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Use the text to identify and explain aspects of the character. Find at least one example for each element of characterization (S.T.E.A.L.)

| STEAL | Example and Page Number | What insight does the text give us into the character? |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Speech |  |  |
| Thoughts |  |  |
| Effects |  |  |
| Actions |  |  |
| Looks |  |  |

Baldwin, K., & Birdseye, D. (2013). Characterization and S.T.E.A.L. https://www.dvusd.org/cms/lib/AZ01901092/Centricity/Domain/3001/STEAL%20Graphic%20Organizer.pdf