

INTERVIEWS TO FICTIONAL CHARACTERS

Make one of the main characters of a novel you have read come to life through an interview.

1. Pair work

Students divide into pairs according to the novels (graded readers) they have already read .They are told that they will become one of the main characters in the novel and will have to answer questions in an interview. They need to find information about his “ fictional “ life, personality and deeds in order to understand and imagine how they will answer a series of questions in an interview .

2. Web Quest

Students are told to find relevant information about the character (and consequently the novel) that they will double.

Students start researching on web sites (See **USEFUL WEB SITES**) with the help of their English teacher . Pairs continue work at home, sharing the data collected, and write a brief biography in first person and answers to possible 7or 8 questions (answers should allow the character to explain themselves, explain about the story and their specific behavior) . Thanks to this interview all the class should understand the basic events in the novel and especially the personality and the choices the character made.

3.Class Presentation

The two students take on the role of the character and are interviewed by the teacher who asks questions about the character’s personality and life (in this case novel).Some answers can be foreseen and prepared before (see Useful websites – examples of questions), others will be unexpected.

4. EVALUATION

The teacher will evaluate the content (knowledge of novel) , oral competence such as fluency, choice of vocabulary, and the ability to answer unexpected questions.

Character Questionnaire: Possible questions

You might start with questions that address the basics about a character:

- What is your character’s name? Does the character have a nickname?
- What kind of distinguishing features does your character have?
- Who are your character’s friends and family? Who does she surround herself with? Who are the people your character is closest to? Who does he wish he were closest to?
- Where was your character born? Where has she lived since then? Where does she call home?
- Where does your character go when he’s angry?
- What is her biggest fear? Who has she told this to? Who would she never tell this to? Why? • Does she have a secret?
- When has your character been in love? Had a broken heart?
- Your character is getting ready for a night out. Where is she going? What does she wear? Who will she be with?

Continue with some ideas from this questionnaire was invented by the noted French author Marcel Proust. These questions are frequently used in interviews so you may want to pretend you’re interviewing your characters.

- What do you consider your greatest achievement?
- What is your idea of perfect happiness?
- What is your current state of mind?
- What is your favorite occupation?
- What is your most treasured possession?
- What or who is the greatest love of your life?
- What is your favorite journey?
- What is your most marked characteristic?
- When and where were you the happiest?
- What is it that you most dislike?
- What is your greatest fear?
- What is your greatest extravagance?
- Which living person do you most despise?
- What is your greatest regret?
- Which talent would you most like to have?
- Where would you like to live?
- What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?
- What is the quality you most like in a man?
- What is the quality you most like in a woman?
- What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?
- What is the trait you most deplore in others?
- What do you most value in your friends?
- Whose are your heroes in real life?
- Which living person do you most admire?
- What do you consider the most overrated virtue?
- On what occasions do you lie?
- Which words or phrases do you most overuse?
- If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?
- How would you like to die?
- If you were to die and come back as a person or thing, what do you think it would be?

Useful WEB Sites

<http://www.sparknotes.com/sparknotes/>

<http://www.shmoop.com/jane-eyre/jane-eyre-character.html>

<http://www.wuthering-heights.co.uk/index.php>

<http://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature>