

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ~ Characterization Chart

SAMPLE

Title of Book: \_\_\_\_\_ Stargirl \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_ Jerry Spinelli \_\_\_\_\_

## Definition of Characterization:

- The personality a character displays
- The way an author reveals a personality

## When characterizing persons, you describe...

- \* their appearance, how they look
- \* their actions, how they behave
- \* their comments, what they say
- \* their qualities or peculiarities, how they show their positive or negative traits

Select one main character from your required summer reading.

Character

Stargirl aka Susan Caraway

In 2-3 sentences, describe his or her...

- Physical Appearance –

Stargirl does not wear make-up, and she has big eyes. Other than having big eyes, she is plain in terms of features. She wears old-fashioned clothes.

- Actions –

She walks around school with a pet rat named Cinnamon. She plays the ukulele during lunch and sings happy birthday to students whom she doesn't know.

- Thoughts or Words –

When Stargirl changes to Susan, she says to Leo that her friend Dori thinks that she is betraying herself – losing her identity. (145)

Also, what do other characters think, feel or say about your chosen character? List a few bullet points.

Other characters don't like her. They think that she's either crazy or trying to get attention. Leo says, "I had linked myself to an unpopular person." (43).

Name three traits that describe your character. Provide one quotation from the book as evidence of each trait.

Evidence/Quote from the book

Trait #1

unique

Support #1 (page 26)

"Because she was different. Different. We had no one to compare her to, no one to measure her against. She was unknown territory."

Trait #2

Caring

Support #2 (page 70)

"...Sun Valley coaches and trainer and Players were sprinting across the floor. But they were not first. Stargirl, somehow, was already there. ...She held his head in her lap while the others attended his broken leg. Her hands moved over his face and forehead. She seemed to be saying things to him."

Trait #3

smart

Support #3 (page 157)

"She won." (the speech contest)  
"Strangers mobbed her, citizens of Phoenix gushing, telling her they had been coming to the contest for years and had never heard anything like it."