



ELA Virtual Learning

English II

April 23, 2020



English II

Lesson: April 23, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

I can analyze how character development in “America and I” advances the plot.

BELL RINGER



On a sheet of notebook paper, answer the following questions:

How do our actions alter our lives?
How do the actions of characters influence their story?

ANZIA YEZIERSKA

“Anzia Yezierska (1880-1970) was a Jewish American novelist known for her writing on immigration, [assimilation*](#), and Jewish American lives.

As a child, she and her family immigrated from the Russian-Polish border to the United States. The following text is an essay about her struggles adapting to living in America” ([CommonLit](#)).



KEY TERMS

Assimilation: the absorption and integration of people, ideas, or culture into a wider society or culture.

Tenement: a room or a set of rooms forming a separate residence within a block of apartments. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, several families often occupied one apartment in overcrowded and rundown buildings.

Ghetto: a part of a city in which members of a minority group live due to economic or social pressure

Sweat shop: a workplace with socially and/or legally unacceptable working conditions. The work is usually difficult, dangerous, and underpaid.

CHARACTERIZATION is the process by which an author shows us the personality of a character

Indirect characterization: What the author shows us about a character using their speech, thoughts, effects on others, actions, and looks. These indirect characterization methods can be remembered using the acronym **STEAL**.

EX: She kept a book of things she would do in places most had never been.

Direct characterization: What the author explicitly tells us about a character

EX: She is adventurous.

CHARACTERIZATION

Static Characters:
a character that **does not** undergo an important change, staying the same from beginning to end

vs.

Dynamic Characters:
a character that undergoes an important inner change as a result of their experiences

As you read Anzia Yezierska's narrative "America and I," take notes on the characterization of Anzia.

- Read ["America and I"](#) by Anzia Yezierska
- As you read, fill in the chart on slide 9. (You may also want to review the key terms on slide 5 before reading.)



PRACTICE

Speech	
Thoughts	EX: "Where is America? Is there an America?" - Paragraph 45
Effect on Others	
Actions	
Looks	



PRACTICE

Use your notes on characterization to answer the following prompt on a sheet of notebook paper:

Anzia is clearly a dynamic character in the story. How does the development of Anzia in “American and I” advance the plot of the story? Support your answer with two pieces of textual evidence.



PRACTICE ANSWER KEY (Answers will vary)

Sample proficient answer:

The development of Anzia over the course of the narrative is crucial to advancing the story's plot. For example, when Anzia lands in America, she is naive and full of hope. This naivete allows her to get taken advantage of by the couple she nannies for at the beginning of the story. When she is admonished for bringing up wages, she responds, "I'll trust myself to you. What I'm worth you'll give me. And I entered their house like a child by the hand." This quote demonstrates her innocence and idealism. As she becomes less naive and more confident, she begins to demand more from her employers, finding new positions with progressively better conditions when they cannot meet her expectations. After leaving one factory job, she states, "The first freshness of the morning was mine. And the whole evening was mine. All day Sunday was mine." As she becomes more Americanized, she begins to expect what other American workers have.

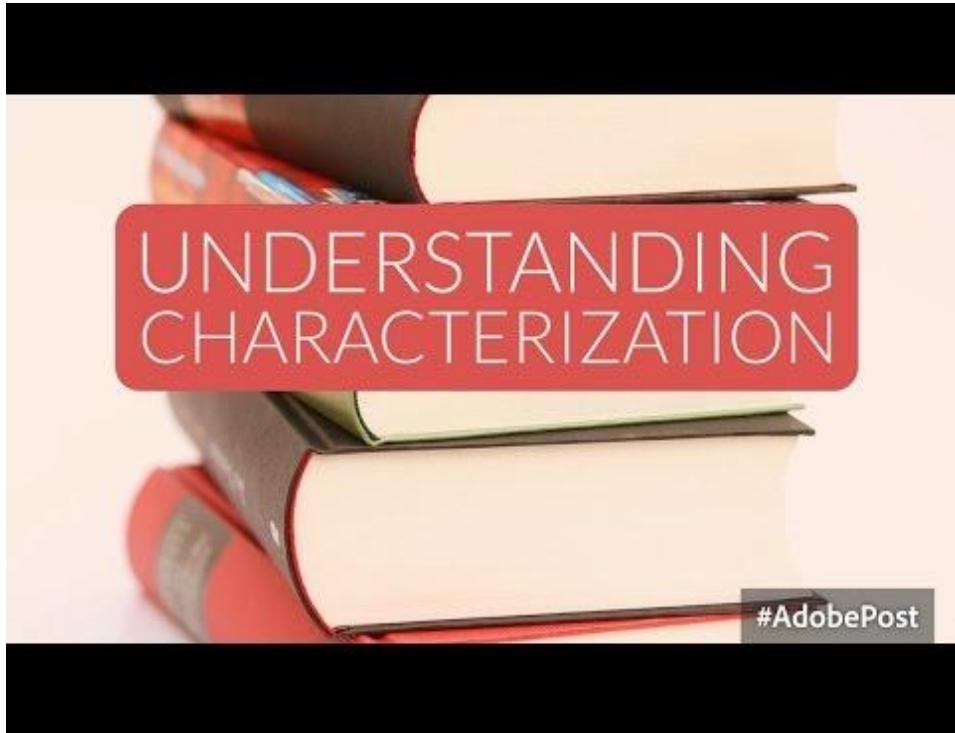
PRACTICE ANSWER KEY (Answers will vary)

Sample proficient answer:

- =CLAIM
- =EVIDENCE
- =EXPLANATION OF EVIDENCE

The development of Anzia over the course of the narrative is crucial to advancing the story's plot. For example, when Anzia lands in America, she is naive and full of hope. This naivete allows her to get taken advantage of by the couple she nannies for at the beginning of the story. When she is admonished for bringing up wages, she responds, "I'll trust myself to you. What I'm worth you'll give me." And I entered their house like a child by the hand." This quote demonstrates her innocence and idealism. As she becomes less naive and more confident, she begins to demand more from her employers, finding new positions with progressively better conditions when they cannot meet her expectations. After leaving one factory job, she states, "The first freshness of the morning was mine. And the whole evening was mine. All day Sunday was mine." As she becomes more Americanized, she begins to expect what other American workers have. This new expectation, resulting from changes within Anzia herself, fuels her search and propels the plot forward.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



For additional help with
characterization, watch this
video!



REFLECTION

Today's learning target is listed below:

I can analyze how character development in “America and I” advances the plot.

On a scale of 1-5, how confident do you feel with today's learning target?
What did you struggle on? What did you understand best?

1 = I still need to work on it!

5= I know I've mastered it!