# Character Map

## ABOUT THE STRATEGY

A CHARACTER MAP is a graphic organizer that helps students learn about a character and how the character impacts and is impacted by setting, other characters, and plot. It is used during and after reading a text. This strategy supports students' comprehension by providing students with a framework for identifying and organizing details about a character.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

- Establish the purpose of the character map.
- Discuss the main components of characterization, i.e., what a characters says and thinks, what a characters looks like, how a character acts, and how others view and treat the character.
- Discuss how characters impact and are impacted by other elements of literature, e.g., setting, characters, and plot.
- Provide students with a character map graphic organizer and model how to use it. Using a class text(s) and a think aloud to illustrate your thinking; scaffold as needed.
- As students read, have them complete the character map. After reading, have students fill in any missing parts; scaffold as needed.

## MEASURING PROGRESS

- Teacher observation
- Conferring
- Student journaling
- Graphic organizer informal assessment

## RESEARCH

Dexter, D. D., & Hughes, C. (2011). Graphic organizers and students with learning disabilities: A meta-analysis. *Learning Disability Quarterly, 34*(2), 51-72.

Kim, A., Vaughn, S., Wanzek, J., & Wei, S. (2008). Graphic organizers and their effects on the reading comprehension of students with LD: A synthesis of research. *Journal of Learning Disabilities, 37*(2), 105-118.

Little, D. C., & Box, J. A. (2011). The use of a specific schema theory strategy-semantic mapping to facilitate vocabulary development and comprehension for at-risk reader. *Reading Improvement, 48*(1), 24-31.

Name: _____

# Character Map

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Draw a picture of the character and write words that describe the character.  Record the page number.

Title: _____

Author:_____ Illustrator: _____

_____  _____

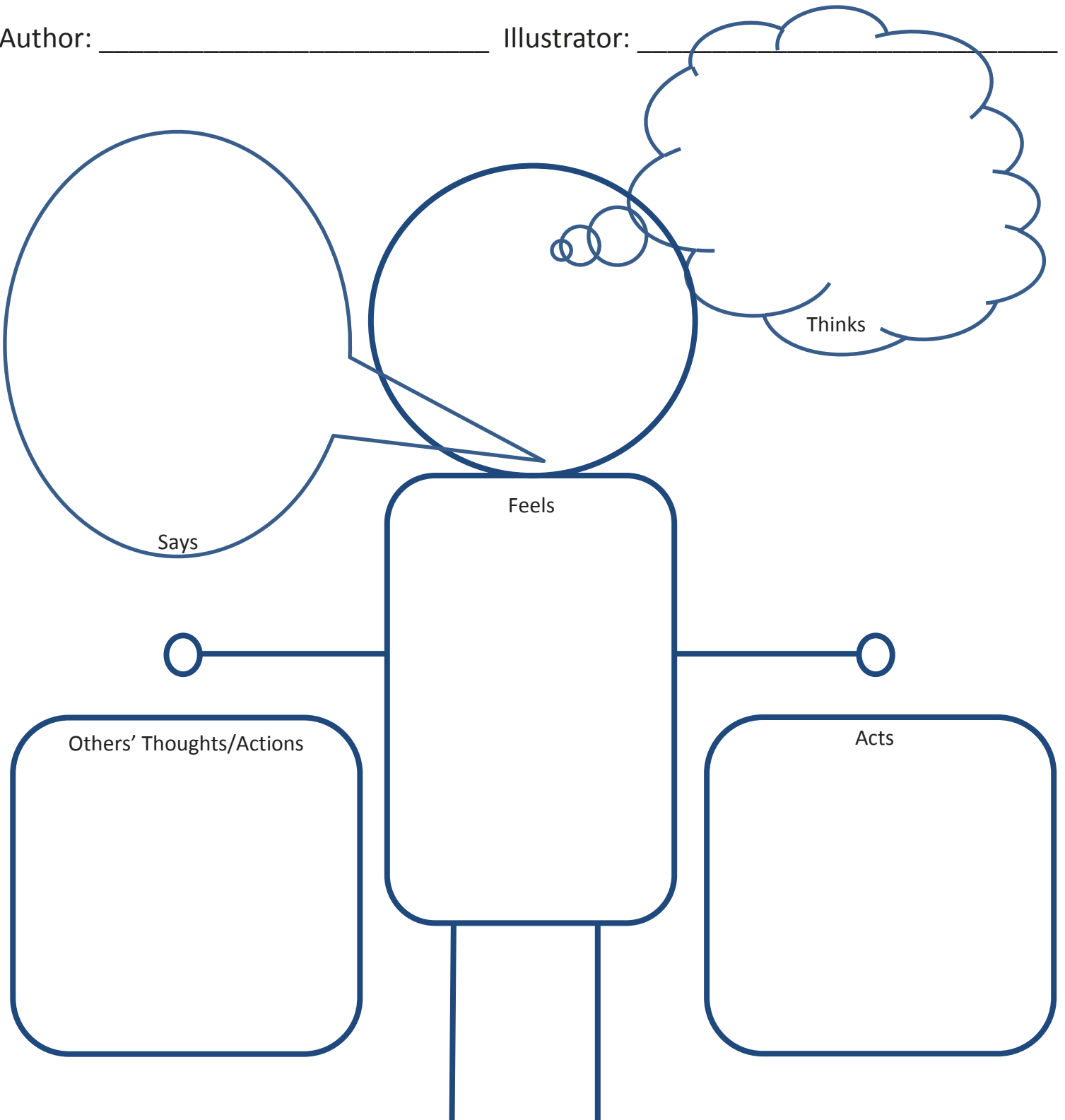_____  _____

_____  _____

_____  _____

Name: _____

# Character Map

Draw features on the figure to illustrate what the character looks like.  Write words to describe aspects of the character as revealed in the text.  Record the page number.

Title: _____

Author: _____ Illustrator: _____

Thinks

Says

Feels

Others' Thoughts/Actions

Acts

Name: _____

# Character Map

Write words to describe aspects of the character as revealed in the text.  Record the page number.

Title: _____

Author: _____ Illustrator: _____

Thinks

Says

Acts

Character

Feels

Looks

Others' Actions / Thoughts