

Name: _____

Ms. Reade

Short Story Packet

“Pancakes”



- Vocabulary _____
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- Plot Chart _____

Short Stories Literary Terms

1. **Characterization**- (Under Character) The process of revealing the personality of character in a story is called characterization.

Direct Characterization – (Under Character) We don't have to decide for ourselves; we are told directly what the character is like.

Indirect Characterization - (Under Character) When a writer uses indirect characterization, we have to use our own judgment to decide what a character is like, based on the evidence the writer gives us—Character's actions, words, and thoughts.

2. **Antagonist** –The character or force that blocks the protagonist is the antagonist. The antagonist is often but not always the villain of the story.
3. **Protagonist** – Main character in fiction or drama. The protagonist is the character we focus our attention on, the person who sets the plot in motion. Often but not always the hero.
4. **Dynamic Character** – (Under Character) A dynamic character changes as a result of the story's events.
5. **Static Character** – (Under Character) A static character is one who does not change much in the course of a story.
6. **Round Character** – (Under Character) A rounded character is anyone who has a complex personality; he or she is often portrayed as a conflicted and contradictory person.
7. **Flat Character** – (Under Character) A flat character is the opposite of a round character. This personality is notable for one kind of personality or characteristic.
8. **Plot** – Series of related events that make up a story or drama.

Exposition – (Basic Situation) Part of a plot that gives information about the characters and their problems or conflicts. The opening of the story. Introduces who, where, when, and what.

Inciting Incident – something happens to begin the action. A single event usually signals the beginning of the main conflict. The inciting incident is sometimes called 'the complication'.

Rising Action – The part of the story in which the main character takes some action to resolve the conflict and meets with problems or complications. Leads to the climax.

Climax – Moment of great emotional intensity or suspense in the plot. Usually when the conflict is decided.

Falling Action – The part of the plot that leads to the resolution.

Resolution – tells or implies the final outcome of the story.

9. **Conflict** – Struggle or clash between opposing characters or opposing forces.

Internal – (Under Conflict) Takes place entirely within a character’s own mind. A struggle between opposing needs or desires or emotions within a single person.

External – (Under Conflict) A character struggles against an outside force.
Man v. man, man v. nature, man v. society.

10. **Point of View** – Vantage point from which a writer tells a story.

First Person – (Under Point of View) One of the characters is actually the narrator telling the story, using pronoun I.

Third Person (limited) – (Under Point of View) The narrator, who plays no part in the story, zooms in on the thoughts and feelings of just one character.

Omniscient – (Under Point of View) “All knowing” The person telling the story knows everything there is to know about the characters and their problems. The narrator is not in the story.

11. **Irony** – Contrast between expectation and reality—between what is said and what is really meant, between what is expected to happen and what really does happen, or between what appears to be true and what is really true.

12. **Setting** – The time and place of a story or play

13. **Mood** – The overall feeling of the story. Mood is created by the setting and the images of the story.

14. **Suspense** – Uncertainty or anxiety the reader feels about what is going to happen next in the story.

15. **Foreshadowing** – The use of clues to hint at events that will occur later in a plot.

16. **Theme** – The general idea or insight into life that a story presents.

17. **Symbol** – Person, place, thing, or event that stands for itself and for something beyond itself as well.

“Pancakes” Vocabulary

1. Benign: *good; kindly*

“He was rabidly unaware, if the truth be known, like a benign space creature visiting Earth with no interest in going native.”

2. Condiment: *a sauce, relish, or spice used to season food*

“Then I mentioned my keen knack for alphabetizing condiments, which was always a bonus, particularly when things go buy, and how a restaurant storage closet should be properly organized to take full advantage of the space.”

3. Crass: *crude; unrefined*

“I felt a ripple of crass laughter in the air.”

4. Degenerate: *a corrupt or vicious person*

“ ‘The man’s a degenerate,’ I said to Andy. ‘He wouldn’t know a world-class buckwheat if it jumped in his lap.’”

5. Rabid: *uncontrollable; fanatical*

“The term he used was ‘rabid perfectionism,’ which I felt was a bit much..”

6. Steel: *to make hard or strong*

“I steeled myself for the hungry Sunday morning mob that would descend in two hours. I always mentally prepared for situation that I knew were going to be stressful...”

“Pancakes” Vocabulary Practice

benign	rabid	steel	condiment	crass	degenerate
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A. **Directions:** Write the word from the box that correctly completes each sentence.

1. Crowds at many soccer matches can be quite crass and they will insult the players.
2. Due to the size of the large crowd, police were on hand to keep an eye out for degenerates that might try to cause trouble.
3. The rabid fans at the north end of the field were all wearing the team’s colors because of their intense loyalty.
4. When an icy rain began, the coaches had to steel themselves against panicking and running for shelter.
5. The food vendors found themselves without the one condiment every spectator wanted.
6. It’s unusual for a person with only a benign interest in soccer to be at a game.

B. **Directions:** Circle the word in each group that is closest in meaning to the boldfaced word.

1. **steel**
a. shirk b. strengthen c. cower d. gripped
2. **degenerate**
a. creator b. scientist c. gossip d. lowlife
3. **benign**
a. feeble b. conniving c. unthreatening d. assaulted
4. **crass**
a. rude b. rough c. dirty d. wordy

Characterization Practice

from *To Kill a Mockingbird*
by Harper Lee

Miss Maudie hated her house: time spent indoors was time wasted. She was a widow, a chameleon lady who worked in her flower beds in an old straw hat and men’s coveralls, but after her five o’clock bath she would appear on the porch and reign over the street in magisterial beauty.

She loved everything that grew in God’s earth, even the weeds. With one exception. If she found a blade of nut grass in her yard it was like the Second Battle of the Marne: she swooped down upon it with a tin tub and subjected it to blasts from beneath with a poisonous substance she said was so powerful it’d kill us all if we didn’t stand out of the way.

Physical Description of Miss Maudie	Description of Miss Maudie’s Personality
<p>Old straw hat, men’s coveralls, beautiful, covered in dirt,</p>	<p>Nature lover, obsessive, strong, observant</p>

from “Pancakes”
by Joan Bauer

The last thing I wanted to see taped to my bathroom mirror at five-thirty in the morning was a newspaper article entitled “Are You a Perfectionist?” But there it was, courtesy of my mother, Ms. Subtlety herself. I was instantly irritated because Allen Feinman had accused me of perfectionism when he broke up with me last month. The term he used was “**rabid** perfectionism,” which I felt was a bit much—but then Allen Feinman had no grip on reality whatsoever. He was rabidly unaware, if the truth be known, like a **benign** space creature visiting Earth with no interest in going native. I tore the article off the mirror; this left tape smudges. Dirty mirrors drove me crazy. I grabbed the bottle of Windex from the closet and cleaned off the gook until the mirror shined, freed of **yellow journalism**.

rabid: uncontrollable

benign: good, kindly

yellow journalism: journalism that exploits or exaggerates the news to create sensations and attract readers

Physical Description	Description of Personality
<p>No physical description</p>	<p>Sarcastic, perfectionist, obsessive, in denial of her condition, defensive</p>

“Pancakes” by Joan Bauer

Anticipation Guide

Before reading the story “Pancakes” in the text: In the space to the left of each statement, place a check mark if you agree or think the statement is true.

1. _____ I am the type of person that always needs to be in control.
2. _____ When things do not go the way I plan, I often panic.
3. _____ I am extremely neat, and everything HAS to be in its proper place.
4. _____ If I want something done right, I have to do it myself.
5. _____ I have very high expectations, and others often disappoint me.
6. _____ I often become disappointed with myself when I can't do everything on my own.

Now, think about the term “perfectionist.” What does this term mean to you? Think of someone that you know who you would consider to be a perfectionist. Write down at least five things about this person that leads you to this conclusion.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

T Chart/Two Column Chart

To draw conclusions, you make judgments based on evidence from the text, inferences, and your own experiences. As a reader, you add up details you've read about and develop your own ideas about what they mean.

Directions: As you read "Pancakes", record important details about Jill's thoughts, actions, and relationships in the chart. Then write what you think these details reveal about Jill. An example has been done for you.

Details About Jill	My Thoughts
<p><i>She refers to her mother as "Ms. Subtlety" after her mother tapes an article about perfectionism to Jill's mirror.</i></p>	<p><i>Jill is being sarcastic. She might feel her mother is picking on her.</i></p>
<p>Page 210 Lines 21-25 "...he asked for his green and black lumberjack shirt back, a truly spectacular shirt that looked a lot more spectacular on me than it did on him because it brought out the intensity of my short black hair and my mysterious brown eyes."</p>	<p>Jill is self-confident and has a strong self-image. She boasts that she looks spectacular in the shirt because its color complements her hair and eyes.</p>
<p>Page 214 Lines 120-124 "Andy tossed his spatula in the air, went to work. The man had total focus. He could have two dozen eggs cooking in front of him and he knew when to flip each one."</p>	<p>Jill admires Andy for his organizational and planning skills, as she comments that "the man had total focus".</p>
<p>Page 215 Lines 161-170 "My lungs collapsed. Sixty-six hungry environmentalists. I pointed to a stack of menus, remembering my personal Waitress Rule Number One: Never let a customer know you're out of control."</p>	<p>Jill wants people to like her and depend upon her, so she doesn't always tell the truth or say what she really thinks. You can make this conclusion based on the fact that Jill tries to do things perfectly so that people will like her (lines 78-84). We also know that she believes that a waitress must always appear to her customers to be in control (lines 168-169), and so she would never say anything that would suggest that she is feeling panicky.</p>

T Chart/Two Column Chart

Is Jill a perfectionist? Use the chart below to match Jill's actions within the story to the six signs of a perfectionist from the article Jill's mother taped to her mirror (page 210).

<i>Jill's Actions</i>	<i>Signs of a Perfectionist</i>
Jill removes the spot from her quilt, fluffs all the pillows, plucked dead leaves off the plant	1. Do you have a driving need to control your environment?
Jill offered to organize Allen's CD collection	2. Do you have a driving need to control the environment of others?
Jill couldn't wait to remove the spot from the quilt.	3. Are you miserable when things are out of place?
"Males." "...but like Allen Feinman, Hugo was a male without vision." "I was ashamed that I couldn't do it."	4. Are your expectations of yourself and others rarely met?
Jill couldn't trust Hugo with the syrup containers so she filled them up every Sunday.	5. Do you believe if something is to be done right, only you are the one to do it?
"I raced down the aisle to table twelve, seeing the hunted look in my customer's eyes. I wanted to be perfect for every one of you. I wanted you all to like me."	6. Do you often worry about your performance when it is less than perfect?

VI. Irony - "But there it was, courtesy of my mother, Ms. Subtlety herself." Pg. 210

VII. Plot Development

A. Exposition:

Who? **_Jill, Allen, Shirl, Lucy, Customers, Andy, Hugo**

Where? **__Pancake House__**

When? **__Sunday morning_____**

What? **__Only waitress in the restaurant__**



B. Climax:

Jill loses control of the pancake house and discovers that she cannot do everything.

C. Rising Action

1. **_Jill finds article taped onto her mirror._____**
2. **_Jill opens the restaurant and customers begin to arrive._____**
3. **_Shirl & Lucy are late leaving Jill to serve 66 environmentalists alone.**

D. Resolution

_Jill and Allen sit together and tell each other that they miss one another. Hugo pours syrup and Jill doesn't care.

VIII. Point of View

A. Type of Narration: ___1st person: Character in the story is the narrator-uses I, me, my, we, etc. _____

IV. Mood : _____

Place: _____