Create Character Word Clouds

greedy
brave
athletic
clever
obedient
persistent
friendly
foolish
Character Word Clouds

Lesson Overview
In this lesson, your students will analyze the character traits for a book character, historical figure, or famous person and will use that information to create a word cloud. A word cloud is an artistic arrangement of words of different sizes. The size of each word is related to the number of times it appears in the text used to create the word cloud. See the example on right.

Video Tutorial
You can view a video tutorial on YouTube that shows exactly how to create a character word cloud. Just click the link on the right or go to: http://youtu.be/ycwnA6Dy1fg Note: I recorded this video for teachers; it wasn’t designed as a tutorial for students.

Teaching Suggestions
1. Before the lesson, follow the directions on the next page to create your own word cloud. Be sure to do this at school so you’ll know if a website is blocked as well as the exact sequence of steps needed to create a word cloud. View the Video Tutorial shown above if needed.
2. Introduce the activity to your entire class after you have read aloud a selection with a strong character or when you are studying historical figures or other famous people.
3. Show the Character Trait list on page 4 to your students and have them randomly jot down traits that can be used to describe the character to some extent. Ask your students to rate these traits according to how well they describe the character, with 1 representing “not at all” and 10 representing “extremely true.”
4. Call on 8 different students one at a time and ask them to volunteer one trait along with the rating they gave it. Ask them to justify their rating by citing details from the selection.
5. Next, demonstrate how to use those 8 words to create a word cloud using the word processing software and website of your choice. Explain how to print and/or save the image.
6. Finally, ask students to create their own word clouds using traits that describe book characters or famous people. To add a writing component or use this for assessment, ask students to write a paragraph justifying their character trait choices and why they rated them as they did.

Mystery Character Bulletin Board: Post the word clouds on a bulletin board and write the name of each character on a colorful index card. Have them use pushpins or small dots of Velcro to match each character with its word cloud. Provide an answer key in a pocket to make it self-checking.

For more character lessons and printables, please visit Teaching Resources www.lauracandler.com or Laura Candler’s resources on TeachersPayTeachers.com.
Create a Character Word Cloud

What’s a Word Cloud?
A word cloud is an artistic arrangement of words of different sizes. The size of each word is related to the number of times it appears in the text used to create the word cloud. Frequent words appear larger than words that are not used as frequently. See the example to the right.

Part 1 - Complete Character Rating Scale
1. Choose a character for your Character Word Cloud. It could be a fictional character from a book, a historical figure, or even yourself! Write your character’s name on the line at the top of the Character Rating Scale.
2. List any 8 character traits below the name of the character. Be sure to choose a variety of traits - some that describe the character very well and some that do not describe the character very well.
3. Rate each character trait from 1 to 10 depending on how well it describes the character. (1 = lowest and 10 = highest) Hint: This activity works best if the scores range between 4 and 10.

Part 2 - Create Character Word Cloud
1. Use your scores on the rating scale to create a Character Word Cloud for the character. Open a word processing document and type the first character trait. Then copy and paste that word over and over the number of times equal to its score. For example, if you wrote “persistent” and gave it a score of 9, copy and paste the word “persistent” over 9 times. Do the same for the remaining character traits. You’ll end up with one long list of words.
2. Visit a word cloud website such as Wordle.net, ABCya.com, or Tagxedo.com. Look for the “create” or the “word cloud” link and click it to get started creating your own.
3. Copy and paste your list of words into the text area and check to be sure there are no spelling errors. Click Submit or Go.
4. Play with the color, font, and layout options until the words are arranged in a pleasing manner.
5. Check with your teacher before printing or saving your word cloud.
6. If you want to save the word cloud as an image to use later, look for the Save option. If you can’t find one, you may need to ask your teacher how to capture it with a screen shot and save it as an image.
Character Clouds

Write the name of a character at the top of the character rating scale box. Then list any 8 character traits on the line below their name. Rate each trait from 1 (low) to 10 (high) according to how well it describes the character.

absent-minded    adventurous    ambitious    argumentative    belligerent    bold    bossy    brave    busy    carefree    caring    careless    cautious    cheerful    clumsy    conceited    confident    considerate    cooperative    courageous    cranky    creative    curious    dainty    daring    dedicated    defiant    demanding    determined    devious    disagreeable    dreamer    energetic

fighting    friendly    fun-loving    generous    gentle    gullible    handsome    happy    hard-working    helpful    honest    humble    humorous    imaginative    impatient    independent    intelligent    inventive    joyful    lazy    leader    logical    lovable    loving    loyal    messy    methodical    mischievous    obedient    observant    outgoing    optimistic    patient

patriotic    persistent    pessimistic    polite    proud    quiet    reckless    resourceful    respectful    rude    selfish    serious    shy    sly    stubborn    studious    successful    suspicious    thoughtful    timid    unruly    unselfish    witty

Character Rating Scale

Name ____________________

1. _________________   ___
2. _________________   ___
3. _________________   ___
4. _________________   ___
5. _________________   ___
6. _________________   ___
7. _________________   ___
8. _________________   ___

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