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 character says and thinks, what a character 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 self-reflection
– Graphic organizer post-reading as assessment

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

Title: ____________________________  Character: ____________________________

Author: ____________________________  Illustrator: ____________________________
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: ___________________________  Character: ____________________________

Author: ___________________________  Illustrator: ________________________

Says

Feels

Others’ Thoughts/Actions

Acts

Thinks
Character Map

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

Title: _____________________________ Character: __________________________

Author: ___________________________ Illustrator: ___________________________