Charlotte's Web - E.B. White

- How could Mr. Arable kill the little pig? Why did he change his mind?

- It doesn't seem fair to kill a baby pig just because it is small. Fern's parents thought it was okay. Maybe they aren't very nice. But the dad does change his mind.

Fern:
- 8 years old
- She was determined to save the pig and she stands up to her dad. She gets really upset. → Fern is strong-willed.
- Fern takes good care of the pig. In the picture (p.6) she looks like a mother holding a baby. → Caring, gentle.

- p.15: All the animals trust her.

Do Fern's parents like Wilbur? p.8

- Mrs. Arable helps by feeding Wilbur when Fern is at school. But she also complains about him and he gets moved from the kitchen to the woodshed and then to outside.

- Mr. Arable was going to kill him but now he's made Wilbur a yard and a wooden box with straw to keep him warm.

Why can't Fern keep Wilbur? p.12

- The dad doesn't seem to care that Fern loves Wilbur. He says she has to sell him because he is older and he's eating more. Fern seems less strong-willed because she agrees to sell him. He only cost $6.
Setting:
country → farm - hoghouse, pa wears overalls, grass, apple tree, barn, animals

Wilbur's Homes
His yard at the Arables
under an apple tree
big box with straw and a door
he gets to play with Fern

Zuckerman's Barn
smelly - manure pile
other animals (cows, horses, sheep)
tools - food trough
pig pen

Are the animals unhappy because they are not free? p.23
The goose gets Willbur to escape. He was feeling sad and bored so he does. The animals all seem excited and cheer for him. When Willbur decides to go back to his pen, the goose says, "You'll miss your freedom." Maybe all the animals are bored but the humans do take care of them.

Templeton (rat)
doesn't play with Wilbur
says he's a glutton (p.29)
crafty
eats Willbur's food

Willbur's feelings:
He was happy with Fern → He is depressed at Zuckerman's barn ("I'm tired of living p.16") → When he escapes, he's terrified → Then he is glad to be back, safe in his pen → He feels lonely with no friends → Willbur is hopeful that he will have a new friend and curious about who it is → He is disappointed that his new friend is a "bloodthirsty" spider (p.41)
The Best School Year Ever - Barbara Robinson

*Characters:

Mrs. Herdman - no Mr. Herdman (p. 8)

the Herdms: Ralph, Imogene, Leroy, Claude, Ollie, and Gladys - "worst kids in the history of the world." (p. 3)

Narrator: Beth Bradley (p. 15)

- Charlie: brother
- Albert: classmate
- Miss Kemp: teacher
- Louis: comp. project (p. 6)
- Mrs. Wendleken: mother
- Howard: herdmans + thinks they should be in jail (p. 18, 27)

*Question: Are the Herdms really all bad?
- p. 47: Gladys made Eugene popular at school.
- Maybe at the end, the Herdms will start acting nicer and people will start to like them.
- Wondering about social issues -

- The Herdman's don't have a dad and with all those kids, the mom works two shifts, so she isn't home much. (p. 8)
- Ms. Phillips from welfare department goes to check on the Herdman's, but she just drives by "that garage where those kids live." (p. 31)
- Nobody in the town seems to like the Herdman's.
- They get kicked out of places - p. 22
- The Herdman's lie, smoke cigars, set fires, hit, bite, curse, and steal. (p. 3)

Questions:
- Are the Herdman's poor?
- Are the Herdman's bullies?
- Maybe the Herdman's need help?
- Why do the Herdman's act the way they do?
- Does the town treat them fairly?
Diary of a Wimpy Kid
by Jeff Kinney

Dear Greg,

I am noticing that you are a bit insecure. Please don't take this the wrong way, but you seem to be extremely bossy, mean, and a bit of a bully to Rowlcy. It seems that you are so nervous to be bullied yourself, and hate when Rodrick is mean to you. Why do you then act this way to Rowlcy?

You see, I think that you are such a creative person, and can use this trait in more positive ways. Like when you created your own bench press, that was amazing. However, your insecurities get the best of you, and you then manipulated Rowlcy to try it out, knowing it would probably be embarrassing. I remember seeing how you don't like to be embarrassed, like when you ran out of the high schoolers haunted house. So why do you then try to embarrass Rowlcy?

It seems that you can be a bit bitter and jealous at times. Like you are bitter and jealous of Manny. It is important to remember that Manny is still a baby, and they need more attention. I think that you should embrace your family more, rather than always acting so negative.

Greg, I know I said a lot of blunt statements to you, but it is because I am...
realizing the pattern in your character. I know that this is a series book, and you will grow more as I continue to read, however, I hope you use your character traits for a more positive use. For instance, use your humor to entertain people, but not by bullying others, so that everyone laughs at them. Instead use your creativity to create funny jokes that everyone can laugh at and enjoy. This will also help to diminish your insecurities.

Good luck!
Alyssa
There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom

Bradley seems to be a boy of contradictions: school vs. home, talk vs. thought, actions vs. feelings.

I'm noticing that Bradley is a boy of contradictions. He acts very differently at school vs. the way he acts at home (even at home, he acts differently in front of different family members and in different places within his home—kitchen vs. his room). His talk rarely matches the thoughts that he is having either. He thinks and feels one way, but he talks and acts in a completely different way. At this point, I'm wondering why he is like this. Did something happen to him when he was younger? Why is he not able to be true to himself?

---

'"That's right! Nobody likes sitting next to me!" He smiled a strange smile. (p. 4)
"F:" "Bradley held up his test for everyone to see and smiled that same distorted smile." (p. 5)
"It didn't bother him. He simply hated them." (p. 8)
"I don't need any help. I'm the smartest kid in class. Ask anyone." (p. 23)
"Me too! I go all the time! I like to make them scream!" (p. 35)
"Nothing ever hurts me." (p. 40)
"...he said proudly. 'So long as Jeff is my friend with me, nobody else will like him!' (p. 53)

| "He was talking to his collection of little animals... they were all friends. And they all liked Bradley." (p. 9-10) |
| "(To himself) "You'll think of something, Bradley. You always do. You're the smartest kid in the world." (p. 17) |
| "I was elected class president... I got another A... Mrs. Ebert hung it on the wall, next to all my other A tests." (p. 18) |
| "He has to like me; he tried to convince himself." (p. 33) |
| "Bradley was Glad Jeff was His Friend." (p. 43) |
| "Bradley never had been inside a girls' bathroom. It was something he'd always wanted to do, but held never had the courage even to peek into one." (p. 43) |
Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

- Greg
  - worried
  - bitter
  - clever
  - manipulative
  - bully
  - bullied
  - determined?
  - creative
  - thinker
- Alyssa
- Feeling
  - worried: Greg is worried about the cheese that is on the basketball court, because whoever touches it is basically contaminated.
  - bitter: Greg is bitter about how his family feels about his little brother. Manny is the angel of the family and is favored by their parents.
  - embarrassed: Greg is at first scared when walking through the haunted house. He is so scared, he run and screamed until he was safe, which made him feel embarrassed, because it was his kids dressed up.
- Trait
  - Clever: Greg is clever because he is always thinking about how to get his way. For example, when his dad kicks him out of the house to play sports, he goes to Rowley's to play videogames.
  - Bossy: Greg is extremely bossy to Rowley. He manipulates Rowley to do whatever he wants, and sometimes even tells Rowley what to do. For example, he made Rowley sneak out on Halloween, even though he didn't want to.
  - Creative: Greg is creative because he made his own bench press to work out. He put sand in milk jugs and taped it to a broom stick.
The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes

Setting: Room 13 is the kind of place where...
- the rough boys who make bad grades sit in one corner with mud and dirt on the floor.
- the kids who get good grades sit on the front row.
- the day is always started by reciting the Gettysburg Address in unison.
- for several days, nobody notices Wanda is gone.

Peggy
- most popular girl
- pretty + has pretty clothes
- kind to small children and animals

Madeline - Maddie
- poor
- hand-me-down clothes
- kids bad to Wanda
- but also glad she isn't being teased.

Peggy teases Wanda

Wanda Petroski
- funny name
- lives in Boggs Heights
- no friends
- always wears a faded blue dress
- no place to live
- lives with her father and brother (no mother)
- very quiet, never laughs
- shiny forehead
- she says she has 100 dresses and 40 pairs of shoes
- she never cries - brave

Maybe Wanda really does have all of those dresses.
There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom

Mrs. Chalkers
"Deep down, he really is a good boy." (19)

Mr. Chalkers
"Just keep it up. You want to be a criminal when you grow up?" (99)
"I'll help you. Let's go into my office. We can work at my desk." (114)

Carla
"I think everyone has 'good' inside him... That's all I see." (89-90)
"You'll always be very special to me." (172)

Claudia
"She knew it was Bradley's favorite. She had bought him the bear to make up for it." (12)

Mr. Ebbel
"Well, nobody likes sitting... there." (4)
"I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed your book report." (163)

The boys
"We'll get you at lunch, Chalkers." (99)
"Do you like to play basketball, Bradley?" (131)

Colleen & the girls
"Ewuu, Bradley Chalkers!" (35)
"Would you like to come to my birthday party on Sunday?" (140)

Jeff
"I told him you're my best friend." (64)
"I never liked him. No one does." (71)
"Hello, Bradley." (131)
There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Words</th>
<th>So what?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p.4 = When Mrs. Ebbel says that no one likes sitting next to Bradley, he smiles a strange smile.</td>
<td>&quot;That's right! Nobody likes sitting next to me!&quot;</td>
<td>This tells me that maybe Bradley is proud of being the kid nobody likes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p.8 = Bradley gives back the dollar that he took from Jeff.</td>
<td>&quot;I'll give you a dollar if you'll be my friend.&quot;</td>
<td>This tells me that Bradley might not be so mean after all. Maybe he's lonely and he wants a friend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p.17 = Bradley talks to his stuffed animals and they talk back to him.</td>
<td>&quot;You'll think of something, Bradley. You always do. You're the smartest kid in the world.&quot;</td>
<td>This tells me that Bradley really is lonely. His stuffed animals are the friends he never had. And when &quot;they&quot; talk back to him, they only say nice, encouraging things to him. Maybe that's what he wants to hear but never hears.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p.37 = When Caria puts out her hand for a handshake, Bradley walks right past her.</td>
<td>&quot;No, you're too ugly.&quot;</td>
<td>This tells me that Bradley is really trying hard to come off as a mean kid. He actually thinks she is pretty, but he acts and talks differently from how he really feels.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Perseverance**

E. begins taking care of both Mama and the 2 babies.

Even though the Strikers put things in the crates, the workers continue.

Mama is sick and may die, E. keeps on working & gets & orders.

Mama and E. move in with their friends in a small cabin. Very different.

**Starting Over**

E. gets a job working in the fields. Even though Mama doesn't know how.

Mama changes how she wears her hair. That way she can work.

E. learns how to cook, clean, sweep. All new things for her.

E. and Mama receive clothes from the “poor” box.

Mama decides that she and E. will leave Mexico and start a new life in the U.S.

E. tells mama she will take care of her. She will make $.

**Class**

Workers vs Strikers

Those who Strike are sent back to Mexico.

Isabel won't be chosen for The Queen of May because she is Mexican.

Mexicans are only allowed to swim on certain days (mainly the 4th of July).
One idea I'm getting is...
Greg is a bully.

I think this because...

- He threatens Rowley on Halloween with eating his candy if he didn't hurry up. pg
- After getting a Big wheel for Christmas he forces Rowley to ride it while he Chucks a football at him. pg 136 Book 1
- He lets Rowley get in trouble for terrorizing a group of little kids, then tells Rowley it's his fault for letting him (Greg) borrow his coat. pg Book 1
- He convinces his classmates to ostracize Chirag Book 2
I think Greg's motivation for being a bully is ...

He is often picked on and otherwise treated unfairly at home so he bullies others to feel better about himself.

I think this because ...

He says things like, "After all those years of getting pushed around by Rodrick, I was definitely ready to move up a notch on the totem pole"

And, "Before you go saying I'm a bad friend for teasing Chirag, let me just say this in my own defense: I'm smaller than about 95% of the kids at my school, so when it comes to finding someone I can actually pick on, my options are pretty limited."
Greg

Mother
- big brother
- picking on him

Father
- sometimes his responsibility

Rowley
- best friend
- subordinate

Mom

Dad

Rodrick

Onriag

Manny
The Hundred Dresses

- ch. 3 + ch. 4 -

Wanda was probably lonely because she has no friends and she only lives with her dad and brother. I think she saw all of those girls talking and smiling and she wanted to be part of the group and to make friends. When she said she had 100 dresses she was just trying to fit in.

- Wanda's brother helps the janitor at school
- Wanda is a slow reader

Maddie wishes that she had more courage.

Maddie can't focus because she can't stop thinking about Wanda. She feels guilty because she didn't stand up for her. But she isn't the only one. Everybody just followed along with Peggy.

? Why is the contest different for the girls and boys? (motor boats / dresses)
- what if a girl wanted to draw a boat?

- Possible Social Issues -
  - gender - contest
  - fitting in - Those Shoes
  - bullying (Peggy is a bully to Wanda)
  - social class
  - equality (the bad kids sit in the corner)
The Hundred Dresses

End of ch. 5 prediction: Maggie thinks Peggy wants to apologize to Wonda, but maybe she is mad she lost the contest. Maybe she will tease Wonda again and then Maggie will find the courage to stand up to her.

Ch. 6 + Ch. 7

Central Message
Stand up for people who need help

Maggie decides to always do this from now on.

Questions:
- Did Wonda really like Peggy and Maddie?
- Why did she draw them wearing the dresses instead of her?
How Peggy Influences the Characters During the Dresses Game

- **Wanda**
  - Always responds to Peggy's question
  - Stands alone until bell rings for class

- **Peggy**
  - Doesn't say anything when Peggy asks
  - Feels embarrassed

- **Maddie**
  - Maddie secretly doesn't like it
  - Scared that Peggy will make fun of her too
  - Laughs anyway

- **Other girls**
  - Other girls follow along with Peggy
  - Laughs at Wanda

Tell Peggy and girls that she has 100 dresses plus 60 pairs of shoes
The Cause of the Dresses Game

- Everyone saw Cecile's red dress and walked over to her including Maddie and Peggy.
- Wanda and Jake were walking to school and saw Cecile.
- Wanda stayed behind to be with Cecile and the girls.
- All of the girls were talking about dresses and formed a circle around Cecile.
- Peggy kept asking Wanda why she didn't wear them and continued to make fun of her.
- Peggy laughed as all of the girls did too.
- Wanda said she had a 100 dresses.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maddie</th>
<th>&quot;I noticed that...&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;This makes me think...&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maddie wants to write a note to Peggy about not making fun of Wanda anymore.</td>
<td>Maddie feels guilty about picking on Wanda.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maddie doesn't finish the note because she's worried that Peggy will pick on her.</td>
<td>Maddie feels bad for Wanda, but she's also kind of scared of the power Peggy has—even though Peggy is her best friend.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Maddie compares Peggy and Wanda because they are so different and everyone likes Peggy but doesn't care for Wanda. | People seem to look a lot on the outside and like those that seem smart and pretty. No one bothered to get to know Wanda and wonder why it took her a long time to read—except for Maggie.
Emotional Timeline for Maddie

Indifferent - Doesn't think about Wanda and often forgets that she exists.

Annoyed by the way that Peggy and everyone was making fun of Wanda with the Dresses Game.

Hesitant - She wants to write a letter to Peggy about Wanda but isn't sure whether to do so.

Brave - Begins writing a letter to Peggy about Wanda.

Relieved - When Peggy wants to go visit Wanda.

Scared - Maddie does not want to be fun of for dresses the way Wanda was.

Guilty - When she learns that Wanda has left school because no one cared for her and made fun of her.

Grateful - When Wanda writes a letter to Ms. Maso and gives a drawing to her.

Joyful - When she realizes that Wanda drew her and Peggy in the drawings.

Sad - Realizing that it was too late to apologize to Wanda.
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<tr>
<th>+1</th>
<th>-1</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Instigates the dresses game with Wanda</td>
<td>- Doesn’t really think about Wanda outside of seeing her during recess when she wants to notice her.</td>
<td>+ Protects small children from bullies Cries when she sees an animal being mistreated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Doesn’t exclude her from the circle of girls on the block talking about dresses.</td>
<td>- Doesn’t seem to feel guilty when learning that Wanda left school.</td>
<td>- Gives Maddie her old dresses to wear and doesn’t make fun of her.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- From Maddie’s P.O.V. Doesn’t seem to feel guilty when learning that Wanda left school.</td>
<td>+ Suggests to Maddie that they should go visit Wanda before she leaves.</td>
<td>- Writes a letter to Wanda with lots of hugs and kisses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Maddie

The Hundred Dresses

Actions

This makes me think...

P. 8
Maddie follows along w/ Peggy, but doesn't want to bully Wanda anymore.

This makes me think Maddie doesn't want to be a part of the bullying but she also doesn't want to ruin her friendship with Peggy.

P. 33
Maddie replays the day "it" started.

This makes me think Maddie is worried that she may be the reason Wanda isn't at school. It makes me think she wishes she wasn't a part of it.

P. 48
Maddie cannot focus.

This makes me think Maddie feels guilty about being a part of the ridicule.

P. 63
Maddie decides never to make fun of anyone again.

This makes me think Maddie realizes it is not worth Peggy's friendship (or anyone) to make fun of someone. She is feeling guilty.
The Other Side

The fence - racism, inequality

Rain - something is changing.

Roses - there is beauty in the worst of situations. Life is a cycle.

Abuelita's blanket - life goes up and down

Title - Esperanza Rising

She will rise ↑

Esperanza Rising