

## Underground to Canada – Character Essay

Your goal is to write a 5-paragraph essay explaining one character's main traits.

First, pick a character... any character. It doesn't have to be a main character, just someone that you can describe well. Once you've got a character in mind, start listing some character traits (words that describe their personality.) You will have to come up with at least 2 bits of proof for each trait from the novel.

Character's name: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Trait #1</u>	<u>Detailed proof from the novel:</u>
	<u>Proof/Example 1:</u>
	<u>Proof/Example 2:</u>

<u>Trait #2</u>	<u>Detailed proof from the novel:</u>
	<u>Proof/Example 1:</u>
	<u>Proof/Example 2:</u>

<u>Trait #3</u>	<u>Detailed proof from the novel:</u>
	<u>Proof/Example 1:</u>
	<u>Proof/Example 2:</u>

## Essay Structure

### 1<sup>st</sup> Paragraph: Introduction

Introduce the novel (title and author)

Provide a brief summary (what's it about)

List and explain the roles for some of the characters (who are they and why are they important)

Name the character you've chosen and list the 3 traits you'll write about.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph (Body Paragraph/Trait #1)

Introduce the first trait and connect it to your character (ex: In the novel, we see examples of Mr. Robson being very kind.)

Give the first detailed example proving/explaining your character's trait

Give the second detailed example proving/explaining your character's trait

Conclude the topic (ex: These examples show that Mr. Robson is kind.)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Paragraph (Body Paragraph/Trait #2)

Introduce the first trait and connect it to your character (ex: Also, we see examples of Mr. Robson being very funny.)

Give the first detailed example proving/explaining your character's trait

Give the second detailed example proving/explaining your character's trait

Conclude the topic (ex: These examples show that Mr. Robson is funny.)

### 4<sup>th</sup> Paragraph (Body Paragraph/Trait #3)

Introduce the first trait and connect it to your character (ex: Also, we see examples of Mr. Robson being very generous.)

Give the first detailed example proving/explaining your character's trait

Give the second detailed example proving/explaining your character's trait

Conclude the topic (ex: These examples show that Mr. Robson is generous.)

### 5<sup>th</sup> Paragraph: Conclusion

Recap your character's traits. (ex: These examples show that Mr. Robson is kind, funny, and generous.)

Talk a bit about how these traits helped your character and/or others in the novel. Talk a bit about what would have happened if your character did not have these traits.

## Essay Editing Checklist

### Organization:

General structure: do you have an introduction paragraph, 3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph?

Does each paragraph have an introductory (topic) sentence, body sentences, and a conclusion sentence?

### Ideas:

Are there any more details/examples/support you could include to make your paragraphs stronger?

Do all of your ideas make sense?

Have you proven that your character has these traits?

### Conventions:

Spelling

Grammar

Punctuation

Capitalization

### Sentence fluency:

Eliminate any run-on sentences.

Eliminate any sentence fragments

Vary the length and style of your sentences

### Word choice:

Try not to repeat things over and over again.

Are there any words or phrases that you can change to make your paragraph sound stronger?