Characterization Task Cards

Task Cards as a Teaching Tool

Why Task Cards?

- Task cards are highly motivating and effective teaching tool.
- Task cards can be used across the curriculum.
- Task cards can be made to target specific learning objectives, especially Common Core.
- Task cards make differentiating easy.
- Task cards are versatile. You can use them individually, in pairs, groups, centers, or whole group instruction.
- Task cards can easily replace boring, tedious worksheets or packets.
- Task cards can be used for Quiz-Quiz-Trade
- Task cards can be used for progress monitoring and tracking progress.

Helpful Tips:

- Print on card stock.
- Ideally print in color, but grayscale will work too.
- If you laminate your task cards, they will last for years.
- Another option is to punch a hole in once corner and put them all on a ring. Then you can store them by hanging them on hooks.

Kimberly Dana is an award-winning teacher and author.

Kimberly’s TPT products have been featured in Common Core News.

For more products, visit Kimberly’s store at http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Kimberly-Dana

Visit Kimberly’s author website at http://kimberlydana.com
Characterization Task Card #1

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Jake is Cassie's older brother. One day they are walking home from school when a cold front rolls in and the temperature drops 20 degrees. Jake is dressed more appropriately for the weather than Cassie. He takes off his hooded sweatshirt and offers it to her. She gratefully accepts. Jake is now colder, but he is happier.

A. Honest, ethical, high-minded
B. Kind, considerate, selfless
C. Impolite, rude, brash
D. Shy, sullen, introverted

Characterization Task Card #2

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Craig is a football player training over the summer for next season. The coach demands that all players come in at 6:00 AM and lift weights until 8:00 AM, when practice begins. Craig gets there at 5:00 AM to begin his training.

A. Active, spry, peppy
B. Loyal, patriotic, steadfast
C. Sensitive, touchy, thin-skinned
D. Dedicated, hardworking, overachiever
Characterization Task Card #3

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Anna volunteered to help Kylie clean her house. When Anna washed the mirrors, Kylie asked her if she used paper towels instead of newspapers. When Anna admitted that she had, Kylie asked her to redo them. Then, while Anna was sweeping, Kylie corrected her on her technique. "Don’t just push the dirt around, Anna. SWEEP it," Kylie told Anna.

A. Bossy, unappreciative, perfectionist
B. Hopeless, dejected, wretched
C. Wicked, hateful, corrupt
D. Rich, wealthy, affluent

Characterization Task Card #4

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Jocelyn came back from the bathroom and noticed that her rainbow pencil was missing. She looked around the room and saw that Beth was using a rainbow pencil. Jocelyn started crying uncontrollably and ran out of the room.

A. Colorful, radiant, vivid
B. Hopeless, dejected, wretched
C. Sad, depressed, distraught
D. Emotional, immature, sensitive
Characterization Task Card #5

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Kelvin found a wallet on the ground. He opened up the wallet and saw an old woman’s ID card. Kelvin took the ID out of the wallet, walked to the woman’s house, and returned the wallet to her.

A. Foolish, silly, inane
B. Lazy, slothful, lax
C. Honest, compassionate, honorable
D. Bold, brave, fearless

Characterization Task Card #6

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Jonathan invited a bunch of friends over to his house. He then talked to them for hours about all the trophies that he had won, his rare comic book collection, and how much money his dad makes. His friends did not enjoy their time at Jonathan’s.

A. Imaginative, clever, inspired
B. Decisive, firm, resolute
C. Boastful, oblivious, ungracious
D. Funny, jocular, droll
Characterization Task Card #7

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

The teacher asked Katherine what the answer was to the problem on the board. Katherine wore a worried expression on her face for a moment and then put her head down on her desk. After the teacher moved on to someone else, Khadija whispered to her friend that the answer was 26. Katherine was correct.

A. Relaxed, calm, serene  
B. Sly, scheming, sneaky  
C. Attentive, aware, observant  
D. Quiet, anxious, introverted

Characterization Task Card #8

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

After Mark's mechanical pencil ran out of lead, he asked Pete, who sat next to him, if he could borrow a pencil. Pete yelled, "No, Mark. If you didn't come prepared, why is that my fault? Bring TWO pencils to class! You can't have one of mine or you'll never learn your lesson."

A. Arrogant, haughty, proud  
B. Stubborn, obstinate, unyielding  
C. Irritable, harsh, unsympathetic  
D. Gentle, kind, merciful
Characterization Task Card #9

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Jason is an excellent accountant who works full-time for his best friend’s company. A larger accounting firm contacts Jason and offers to pay him twice if he will work for them. Jason thanks the company for their offer but declines. He doesn't even tell his friend that he received the offer.

A. Loyal, considerate, devoted
B. Humble, meek, subdued
C. Impulsive, rash, reckless
D. Honest, fair, ethical

Characterization Task Card #10

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Eric's car broke down in the woods and his phone wasn't getting a signal. He used his car antenna as a spear and caught fresh salmon. He started a fire with sparks from his car battery, and he ate the cooked salmon while waiting for help.

A. Hopeful, positive, buoyant
B. Adventurous, bold, fearless
C. Resourceful, inventive, hardy
D. Cruel, callous, cold-blooded
Characterization Task Card #11

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Michael has clothes all over the floor of his bedroom. Underneath the clothes on his floor is a pizza box with crusts in it. Underneath the pizza box is bunch of pieces of a board game that Michael played and didn’t put away. Michael sat on his unmade bed with his shoes on and played video games all night.

A. Poor, needy, destitute
B. Apologetic, contrite, regretful
C. Obnoxious, offensive, repellent
D. Messy, sloppy, slothful

Characterization Task Card #12

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

The teacher told the students that they were not to start testing until everyone received all of the testing materials. He went on to explain that the test booklet was to remain sealed until he had read through all of the directions. Immediately after receiving the test booklet, Chris raised his hand and asked if he could start testing.

A. Confused, mystified, puzzled
B. Studious, learned, academic
C. Inattentive, distracted, preoccupied
D. Grumpy, waspish, prickly
Characterization Task Card #13

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Katie’s mother came home from a long day of work and noticed that the entire house had been cleaned from top to bottom. She figured that Katie must have cleaned it. The strangest thing was that she didn’t even ask Katie to clean. Then she found a note on the counter from Katie asking for permission to sleep over at her friend Heather’s house. Katie’s mother smiled.

A. Tolerant, liberal, understanding
B. Curious, strange, bizarre
C. Clever, helpful, strategic
D. Secretive, concealed, cryptic

Characterization Task Card #14

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Gabriella has a big project due in two weeks. She spends the next twelve days interacting with people from her school on social networks. The night before the project is due, she rushes to complete it and gets a C- as a final grade. She was happy with the grade.

A. Bossy, controlling pushy
B. Unmotivated, procrastinator, complacent
C. Religious, irreverent, devoted
D. Friendly, outgoing, social
Characterization Task Card #15

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Ms. Roberts noticed that Tierney had not been herself recently. She participated less in class, dressed in darker colors, and didn’t want to associate with the friends that she had at the beginning of the school year. Noticing these changes, Ms. Roberts scheduled a conference after school with Tierney so that they could talk in private.

A. Silly, childish, daft  
B. Helpful, supportive, neighborly  
C. Nosy, prying, intrusive  
D. Perceptive, concerned, dedicated

Characterization Task Card #16

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Lyle’s cousin Ted works at a packing plant. After Lyle asked Ted to get him a job there several times, Ted went out of his way and got Lyle hired. Tomorrow was Lyle’s first day. Lyle stayed up late that night hanging out with friends. Consequently, he slept in and arrived at the packing plant an hour late. During his training, Lyle was yawning and almost fell asleep on the line. Ted shook his head in disgust.

A. Tired, exhausted, jaded  
B. Adroit, nimble, skilled  
C. Irresponsible, unappreciative, disrespectful  
D. Thrilling, dramatic, rousing
Characterization Task Card #17

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Ricky was on his way to school when he stepped in a pothole and twisted his ankle. He tried to use his phone to call for help, but he dropped it in a puddle. He tried to flag down a car as it passed by quickly, soaking him even more. Finally, Ricky hobbled into the school, but not before opening up the door and hitting himself in the forehead.

A. Injured, mistreated, maligned
B. Restless, agitated, anxious
C. Clumsy, unlucky, accident-prone
D. Short, petite, miniature

Characterization Task Card #18

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Javier was shopping at the grocery store for some olives. He needed a lot of olives, so he grabbed the large jar off of the shelf. Then he noticed the price. The large jar contained 20 oz. of olives and it cost $3.99. He looked at the small jar of olives. It contained 10 oz. of olives and cost $1.49. Javier put the large jar back and purchased two small jars of olives.

A. Shrewd, attentive, intelligent
B. Imaginative, zany, inspired
C. Clumsy, unfortunate, accident-prone
D. Spoiled, pampered, coddled
Characterization Task Card #19

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Kevin has tried out for the basketball team for the last three years. Each year he has been cut from the team because other athletes have outperformed him. Kevin has been practicing all summer, however, and he knows that this is his year. It has to be. He can feel it.

A. Serious, somber, pensive
B. Persistent, resilient, optimistic
C. Lucky, fortunate, prosperous
D. Spoiled, pampered, coddled

Characterization Task Card #20

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Today was Kiki’s first day at high school. As she passed by the fire alarm, one of the seniors struck up a conversation with her. “Did you know that we are supposed to have a fire drill today?” Kiki said that she did not know that. The senior then convinced her that the principal is probably running behind and would give her fitting reward if she pulled the fire alarm for him. Kiki pulled the fire alarm. She was suspended for a week.

A. Scared, intimidated, nervous
B. Persistent, resilient, dedicated
C. Naive, gullible, trusting
D. Rowdy, lawless, out of control
Characterization Task Card #21

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

It was gym class and the boys decided to play a fun, casual game of basketball. They weren’t even going to keep score, until Clive insisted on it. The game was pretty close, but soon Clive’s team dropped behind a few points. Clive started throwing elbows and fouling people. He pushed one player to the ground while he was attempting a layup, at which point Clive claimed that the player was doing it for attention. After losing the game, Clive punched his hand against the wall walked out.

A. Competitive, aggressive, combative
B. Athletic, robust, vigorous
C. Naive, gullible, trusting
D. Touchy, peevish, oversensitive

Characterization Task Card #22

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Amy knew she would breakup with Herby. She thought he was a bore. One day Herby called a radio station and won backstage passes to see pop music super group, The Mountain Boys. When Herby asked Amy if she wanted to go to the concert with him, she agreed excitedly. Amy was very nice to Herby until the concert. After the concert she broke up with him.

A. Dull, boring, tedious
B. Musical, harmonious, talented
C. Selfish, deceptive, manipulative
D. Touchy, peevish, oversensitive
Characterization Task Card #23

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Daren showed up at the banquet with food stains all over his dress shirt. He sat down, put his feet on the table, and burped loudly. The other people sitting at the table looked at each other but continued eating.

A. Rude, unmannerly, vulgar
B. Worried, fretful, tense
C. Selfish, deceptive, manipulative
D. Noisy, boisterous, turbulent

Characterization Task Card #24

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Diamond went to the library to research her White House diorama project. She spent two hours at the library and an additional six hours working on her project. The morning it was due, she remade the bushes and shrubbery until they were to her satisfaction.

A. Academic, intelligent, clever
B. Worried, fretful, tense
C. Perfectionist, meticulous, hardworking
D. Stubborn, inflexible, recalcitrant
Characterization Task Card #25

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Courtney asked her neighbor if she could borrow an egg to complete a recipe that she had already started. The next day Courtney returned an egg to her neighbor along with a thank you card expressing her since gratitude. She also gave her a piece of her banana cream pie.

A. Overweight, corpulent, rotund
B. Grateful, appreciative, polite
C. Irresponsible, foolish, unreliable
D. Stubborn, inflexible, recalcitrant

Characterization Task Card #26

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Brad spends two to four hours a day grooming himself. This regimen includes an extensive time period during which Brad lovingly admires his appearance in the mirror. When Alice asked Brad for a date, he declined. “She’s not cute enough for me,” he thought to himself.

A. Cute, handsome, attractive
B. Romantic, loving, amorous
C. Narcissistic, conceited, vain
D. Rich, wealthy, affluent
Characterization Task Card #27

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Patrick found a wallet on the ground. He opened up the wallet and saw the identification card with the address. Patrick took the money out of the wallet and threw the wallet in a ditch. He then bought a new iPhone.

A. Dishonest, selfish, unethical
B. Thankful, grateful appreciative
C. Narcissistic, conceited, vain
D. Leader, groundbreaker, trailblazer

Characterization Task Card #28

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

After coming home late from a party, Mae's father questioned her. She wanted to tell him that she was studying at a friend's place and lost track of time, but she told him the truth instead: she was at a party. Mae's father was disappointed but commended her for telling the truth.

A. Dishonest, selfish, unethical
B. Innocent, faultless blameless
C. Honesty, integrity, courage
D. Spoiled, pampered, indulged
Characterization Task Card #29
What character traits are revealed in this passage?

After the orphanage burned down, Ms. Cleary started a fundraising campaign and donated $5,000 dollars of her own money. After nine months of hard work, the funds were raised and the orphanage was rebuilt. A statue of appreciation was erected in Ms. Cleary’s honor by the mayor.

A. Rich, affluent, luxurious
B. Charitable, selfless, generous
C. Hot, burning, smoldering
D. Sweet, pleasant, agreeable

Characterization Task Card #30
What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Evelyn knew she didn’t study for the geometry test. She also knew she would be grounded if she didn’t get her grade up. When her teacher turned her back she stealthily wrote the answers on her desk.

A. Smart, studious, diligent
B. Dishonest, cheating, unethical
C. Lonely, rejected, unloved
D. Desperate, forlorn, distraught
Characterization Task Card #31

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

Amanda could tell the new student was nervous. Having moved last year to a new school, she had been there before! She walked up and smiled. “Hi. I’m Amanda. I’ll walk you to your next class,” she said. “Do you want to sit by me at lunch?”

A. Smart, studious, diligent  
B. Miserable, gloomy, dismal  
C. Friendly, kind, empathic  
D. Bold, shameless, brazen

Characterization Task Card #32

What character traits are revealed in this passage?

The toddler curled his lip and made a gagging sound. “I don’t want to eat the spinach,” he cried, jamming his small fists into the green mush. “Spinach is yuck-y!!”

A. Naughty, rebellious, unruly  
B. Stingy, miserly, tightfisted  
C. Tolerant, charitable, liberal  
D. Stubborn, opinionated, strong-willed
Answers to Characterization Task Cards 1-32

1) B
2) D
3) A
4) D
5) C
6) C
7) D
8) C
9) A
10) C
11) D
12) C
13) C
14) B
15) D
16) C
17) C
18) A
19) B
20) C
21) A
22) C
23) A
24) C
25) B
26) C
27) A
28) C
29) B
30) B
31) C
32) D