

Here's a clear **STEAL Method Template** you can use for any character analysis essay or literature assignment.

| <b>STEAL Element</b>          | <b>What to Look For</b>                      | <b>Questions to Ask</b>  | <b>Evidence to Include</b>                             | <b>Analysis Sentence Starter</b>  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| <b>S – Speech</b>             | What the character says and how they say it  | What does their dialogue reveal? Do they speak confidently, politely, sarcastically, or emotionally? | Quotes from dialogue, conversations, monologues        | "The character's speech reveals...", "Through their dialogue, the author suggests..."       |
| <b>T – Thoughts</b>           | Internal thoughts, feelings, and motivations | What are they thinking? What do they value, fear, or hope for?                                       | Internal monologue, narration, reflections             | "The character's thoughts demonstrate...", "Their internal reflections reveal..."           |
| <b>E – Effect on Others</b>   | How other characters react to them           | How do people treat them? Do they inspire trust, fear, admiration, or resentment?                    | Reactions, comments, actions of other characters       | "The reactions of other characters indicate...", "Others perceive the character as..."      |
| <b>A – Actions</b>            | What the character does                      | Do their actions match their words? How do they respond to conflict?                                 | Significant decisions, behaviour, key events           | "The character's actions illustrate...", "By choosing to..., the character demonstrates..." |
| <b>L – Looks (Appearance)</b> | Physical appearance and body language        | How does the author describe them? Does appearance symbolize personality or status?                  | Physical descriptions, clothing, gestures, expressions | "The author's description of the character suggests...", "Their appearance symbolizes..."   |

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### Character Analysis Planning Template

**Character:**

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**Text:**

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**Thesis Statement:**

What is your overall argument about the character?

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**S – Speech**

**Evidence (Quote):**

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**What does this reveal?**

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**T – Thoughts**

**Evidence (Quote):**

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**What does this reveal?**

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**E – Effect on Others**

**Evidence (Quote):**

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**How do others respond to the character?**

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**A – Actions**

**Evidence (Quote):**

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**What do these actions show?**

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**L – Looks**

**Evidence (Quote):**

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**How does appearance contribute to characterization?**

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**Character Analysis Paragraph Template (STEAL)**

**Topic Sentence**

- The author presents **[Character]** as \_\_\_\_\_.

**Evidence**

- This is shown through the character's **(Speech/Thoughts/Effect on Others/Actions/Looks)** when \_\_\_\_\_.

**Quotation**

- " \_\_\_\_\_ "

**Analysis**

- This suggests \_\_\_\_\_.
- Furthermore, it demonstrates \_\_\_\_\_.
- The author uses this to highlight \_\_\_\_\_.

**Link**

- Overall, this evidence reinforces the idea that the character is \_\_\_\_\_.
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**Quick STEAL Checklist**

- Speech analyzed with evidence
- Thoughts examined
- Effect on other characters explained
- Actions connected to personality or development
- Appearance interpreted (not just described)
- Quotations included

- Analysis explains **how** and **why**, not just **what**
- Paragraph links back to the thesis

This template works well for analyzing characters in novels, plays, short stories, and films, and can be adapted for middle school, high school, AP Literature, IB English, GCSE, A-Level, or introductory college literature assignments.

