

Character Analysis: Student Activity for “The Ravine”

Name _____ Date _____

- **Character traits** are the qualities shown by a character, such as physical traits (tall, brown eyes) or expressions of personality (kind, anxious).
- **Character motivation** is the reason or reasons a character acts, feels, or thinks in a certain way.
- **Character development** is how a character changes throughout a story.

Character	Traits	Motivation	Development
Vinny		Vinny is motivated both by safety and by fear of letting down his peer group.	
Joe Boy	Joe Boy is mean toward Vinny and a bit of a loudmouth. Sometimes he was a “big fat babooze.”		
Starlene			
Mo			

Answer the following question by restating and answering the question, citing evidence, and then explaining the evidence. How will the incident at the ravine affect Vinny and Joe Boy’s friendship?

Character Analysis: Student Activity for “The Ravine” (Possible Answers)

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Character	Traits	Motivation	Development
Vinny	Cautious. Concerned about what others think.	Vinny is motivated both by safety and by fear of letting down his peer group.	Vinny starts off as a follower and finishes as one who makes his own decisions.
Joe Boy	Joe Boy is mean toward Vinny and a bit of a loudmouth. Sometimes he was a “big fat babooze.”	Joe Boy seems motivated by getting others to laugh and by making himself feel better.	Joe Boy starts and finishes as a jerk, but the end of the story Joe Boy isn’t as loud and obnoxious.
Starlene	Haole—that is a white girl and an outsider.	She wants to show the boys that a girl can be brave. She’s the first to the pond and first to jump.	She falls in line with her boyfriend in ostracizing Vinny for not jumping. She’s no longer the outsider.
Mo	Mo was afraid of nothing.	He’s motivated by fun, adrenaline, and being part of the group.	We don’t get too much individual attention with Mo.

Answer the following question by restating and answering the question, citing evidence, and then explaining the evidence. How will the incident at the ravine affect Vinny and Joe Boy’s friendship?

Vinny and Joe Boy’s friendship will probably deteriorate after the incident at the ravine. Despite Joe Boy’s ribbing and intense peer pressure, Vinny acts alone and refuses to risk his life. It’s unlikely Vinny will tolerate Joe Boy’s teasing in the future now that he’s taken a bold step.