Character Development Activity

Characters in stories are developed through things they do and say as well as what others say about them. Use the following list to create a fictional character. THEN write a one page story excerpt that develops that character. I should be able to tell from this writing what your character is like as a person. You may use dialogue but it is not required.

Describe your character’s personality. List at least 5 adjectives that tell what he/she is like.

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| Adjective | I can “show” this by…. |
| 1.  Friendly | Smiles and laughs a lot |
| 2.  Enthusiastic | Speaks loudly and quickly, rushes around to do things |
| 3.  Gossipy | Talks about others; often criticizes. “Did you hear…?” “Can you believe…?” |
| 4.  Organized | Makes lists; assigns jobs to others |
| 5.  Vengeful | Excludes people she feels have mistreated her |
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Describe your character’s physical qualities. List 3 or more adjectives that describe his/her appearance.

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| Adjective | I can “show” this by…. |
| 1.  “mom-like” | Short blond hair, average clothes: jeans and sweaters |
| 2.  Clean | Hair, clothes, make up always “together” |
| 3.  Overweight |  |

Claudia was laughing loudly as I entered the kitchen and she rushed to me smiling to give me a hug. “How are you?!” she almost shouted. “I haven’t seen you in so long! I can’t wait to get going on planning this party.”

“I know,” I told her. “Vicky is going to be so surprised.

She went to the table and sat down while others reached for the snacks set out on the table. There was always a good time at Claudia’s house and she made you feel so much at home…unless you were Missy. But that was another story.

At some point, Missy had crossed her path and it had been pretty ugly among us all ever since. I had been trying to figure out what was going on for some time now but no one seemed willing to talk about it. All I knew was that no eye contact was made and there was no friendly hug for Missy like there was for me, making it pretty awkward when we were all together. Of course she wasn’t here now. Why would she be?

“So, I started organizing the things we need to do,” Claudia said. “Sue, I need you to bring some paper plates and cups, ok? Good plastic cups, not those crappy Styrofoam ones. I hate those. They look so tacky. Those are the kind that Missy would use. Did you hear how she treated Mike last week?”

“Um, at the store?” I asked.

“Yes! I can’t believe she was so rude! I mean, really, what is her problem? I have about had it with her being this way to my family.” Claudia was getting fired up and I knew this meant that we were in for a LONG discussion.