



Activity 1: Identifying a Character

Objective: Identify at least 5 characteristics/traits/labels that describe the main character in a story.

Leader Prep: Select one or more of the suggested texts*. Read it on your own or with your co-leader and create an identity map for the author, using the Identity Map Example. Be prepared to share your map with your Girl Scouts.

Supplies:

- Chalkboard, whiteboard or easel paper + writing utensil
- Scrap paper and pencils
- Leader Identity Maps (from prep)
- Hard copies of your chosen text for girls to read or look at together in a group*

1. Begin the activity by explaining to the girls that you'll be learning about identity. Ask the group – “What is an identity?” You can also ask “What are some ways we talk about ourselves and each other to identify ourselves and other people?”
2. Next, pass out scrap paper and pencils to each Girl Scout. Instruct the girls to write down words or draw pictures of parts of the text that they think represent the identity of the person in the story. They can do this as you read aloud.
3. For younger girls – gather together in a circle to read the text. For older girls – split up into small groups for girls to read on their own or together, as they prefer.
4. Now, you'll collect all of the identity clues that were gathered in a map format. On your chalkboard (or equivalent), write the name of the main character and draw a circle around it.
5. Write or draw the identity clues that the girls gathered. Girls can share aloud or add to the map by drawing/writing their own notes.
6. Share the map created by leaders prior to the meeting. How are the maps similar? How are they different? What sorts of things did troop leaders think were important parts of the subject's identity? What about the girls?

Identity Maps: Suggested Reading	
DAISY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ada Twist: Scientist</i> by Andrea Beaty • <i>Jacob's New Dress</i> by Sarah & Ian Hoffman
BROWNIE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>My Name is Not Isabella</i> by Jennifer Fosberry • <i>Meet Yasmin!</i> By Saadia Faruqi
JUNIOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Anne of Green Gables: A Graphic Novel</i> by Mariah Marsden • <i>Invisible Emmie</i> by Terri Libenson
CADETTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pashmina</i> by Nidhi Chanani • <i>Tomboy: A Graphic Memoir</i> by Liz Prince
SENIOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i> by Marjane Satrapi • <i>Ms. Marvel Vol. 1: No Normal</i> by G. Willow Wilson
AMBASSADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ghost World</i> by Daniel Clowes • <i>Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return</i> by Marjane Satrapi

*Looking for books? If you're not interested in purchasing the books individually or for the troop, try visiting your local library. Use your librarian as a resource to find books where they're available, including utilizing the interlibrary loan system or your library's access to online book-lending through apps like OverDrive, Lobby and Hoopla.

