

Character Wheel Project

Project Overview

Create a **large character wheel** for a novel. Your wheel should look like a circle divided into **pie slices**. Each slice will represent **one character** from the novel. The completed wheel should show how the characters connect to the plot, themes, and each other.

This project helps students analyze the full cast of a novel rather than focusing on only one person.

Project Purpose

Students will examine:

- each major character's role in the story
- character traits and motivations
- conflicts and development
- relationships among characters
- how characters help reveal the themes of the novel

Directions for Students

Choose a novel and identify the major characters. Draw a **large circle** on paper. Divide the circle into **equal pie slices**, with **one slice for each important character**. In the center of the wheel, include the novel's title, author, and major themes.

Each pie slice should contain information about one character. Your wheel should be organized, readable, and visually connected to the novel.

Center of the Wheel

In the middle circle, include:

- title of the novel
- author
- 2–3 major themes
- a symbol or small illustration that represents the novel as a whole

Pie Slice Sections

Each **pie slice** should be labeled with a character's name and include the following:

Character Name

Write the character's full name clearly at the top of the slice.

Role in the Novel

Explain the character's role. For example:

- protagonist
- antagonist
- foil
- friend
- family member
- mentor
- supporting character

Traits

List **3–4 important traits** and briefly explain them.

Motivation

Explain what the character wants, fears, or values most.

Conflict

Describe the main struggle this character faces. This may be:

- internal conflict
- external conflict
- both

Important Evidence

Include **one or two quotes** or specific moments from the novel that help show who this character is.

Change Over Time

Explain how the character changes throughout the novel, or explain why the character stays mostly the same.

Theme Connection

State how this character connects to one of the novel's major themes.

Relationship Lines

After completing the slices, draw **lines across the wheel** to connect characters who have important relationships. Label the lines with short descriptions such as:

- friendship
- rivalry
- family
- trust
- conflict
- betrayal
- influence

This helps show how the characters shape one another and how the story works as a whole.

Visual Requirements

Your character wheel should:

- be shaped like a circle divided into pie slices
- include one slice for each major character
- use color to separate characters or groups
- include symbols or small drawings connected to each character
- be neat, readable, and well organized

The visuals should support the analysis, not distract from it.

Written Reflection

Attach a short written response of **one or two paragraphs**. In your reflection, explain:

- which character is most important to the novel
- which relationship matters most
- how the characters work together to develop the novel's theme

Suggested Steps

First, list the major characters in the novel. Next, draw a large circle and divide it into equal pie slices. Then, fill the center with the novel title, author, and themes. After that, complete each slice with character information. Finally, draw lines between related characters and label those relationships.

Grading Criteria

A strong project will:

- include all major characters
- accurately explain each character's role and traits
- use text evidence
- show understanding of character development
- connect characters to themes
- clearly display relationships
- be neat and visually effective

Simple Rubric

4 – Excellent

All slices are complete, thoughtful, and accurate. The project shows deep understanding of characters, relationships, and themes.

3 – Good

Most slices are complete and accurate. The project shows clear understanding and solid effort.

2 – Developing

Some slices are incomplete or unclear. Character understanding is partial.

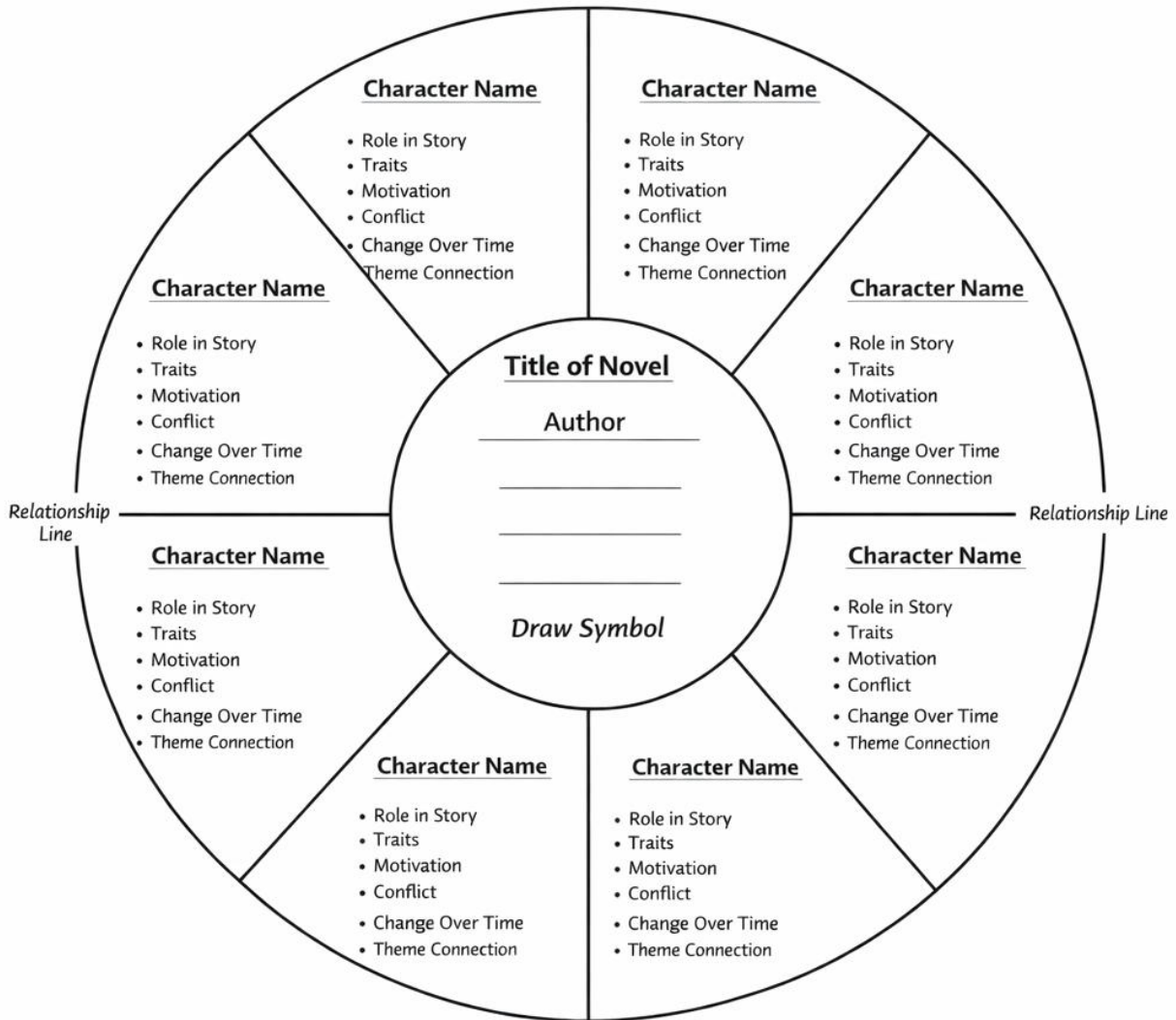
1 – Beginning

The project is missing several parts or shows limited understanding of the novel.

Student-Friendly Project Description

Create a large circle divided into pie slices. Each slice should represent one major character from your novel. In the center, include the title, author, and themes. In each slice, include the character's role, traits, motivation, conflict, evidence, change over time, and theme connection. Draw lines between slices to show important relationships between characters. Use color and symbols to make your wheel clear, creative, and meaningful.

CHARACTER WHEEL PROJECT



Character Wheel Worksheets

Instructions

Draw a large circle and divide it into **equal pie slices** (one slice per character). Use the template below to plan what goes in each section before creating your final wheel.

Center Circle Template

Fill in the center of your wheel:

Title of Novel: _____

Author: _____

Theme 1: _____

Theme 2: _____

Theme 3 (optional): _____

Symbol for the Novel (draw):

Pie Slice Template (Use for EACH Character)

Repeat this section for every character.

Character Name: _____

Role in the Novel:
(protagonist, antagonist, foil, etc.)

Traits (3–4 with explanation):

1. _____
2. _____

- 3. _____
- 4. _____

Motivation (What drives the character?):

Conflict (Internal and/or External):

Important Evidence (quote or moment):

Change Over Time:

Beginning: _____

Middle: _____

End: _____

Theme Connection:

Relationship Connections Template

Draw lines between characters on your wheel. Use this planning space first:

Character A → Character B: _____

Type of Relationship: _____

Explanation: _____

Character A → Character B: _____

Type of Relationship: _____

Explanation: _____

Character A → **Character B:** _____
Type of Relationship: _____
Explanation: _____

(Add more as needed)

Visual Planning Section

Use this space to plan symbols and colors for each character:

Character: _____
Color: _____
Symbol(s): _____

Character: _____
Color: _____
Symbol(s): _____

(Repeat as needed)

Reflection Template

Write 1–2 paragraphs:

Which character is most important to the novel and why?

Which relationship matters most and why?

How do the characters help develop the theme?
