

Understanding Motivations

You spend every day shooting hoops in your driveway. Why? Because you want to make the basketball team. You study an hour for each spelling test. Why? Because you want to get it 100% right. In fiction, characters are just like you: They do things for a reason. These reasons are known as motivations. In this activity, you will think about the characters of Sam and Dr. Woods. You will then consider their motivations.

Directions: Answer the questions below.

Sam

Choose three adjectives to describe Sam.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Write down three decisions that Sam makes during the story.

- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

What are Sam's motivations for each decision?

- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____

Dr. Woods

Choose three adjectives to describe Dr. Woods.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Write down three decisions that Dr. Woods makes during the story.

- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

What are Dr. Woods's motivations for each decision?

- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____

Critical Thinking

Describe something bold you did recently, and explain your motivation. Write your answer as a well-organized paragraph, and make sure to use details!