

## Character analysis

### Practice

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### Character traits

Here are a few examples of **character traits**:

|             |            |            |         |               |
|-------------|------------|------------|---------|---------------|
| active      | calm       | determined | grouchy | rude          |
| adventurous | caring     | energetic  | helpful | shy           |
| bossy       | curious    | fair       | honest  | stubborn      |
| brave       | dependable | funny      | mean    | understanding |

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Here is a description of a book that you might like to read. Think about *what each character does*, and what this tells you about *what kind of person they are*.

#### Introduction to *Beanboy*

Bean loves comics—both reading them and drawing them. His favorite comic book character is the superhero, H2O. With enough water, H2O can double in size. Bean buys every new issue of the comic book on the day it comes out. In Lisa Harkrader's book, *Beanboy*, we meet Bean when he has just bought the newest issue of H2O. Sam, a boy Bean knows but doesn't like much, grabs Bean's new comic book and throws it into a puddle of water. All this makes Bean almost late to pick up his younger brother Beech at the bus stop. Bean runs all the way to the bus stop. He is worried about what might happen if he isn't there when Beech gets off the bus. Beech is 9 years old, and he goes to a different school than Bean. Bean is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and in High School. He takes care of his brother in their apartment each day until their mother gets home from work. Their mother also takes college classes at night.

Bean gets to the bus stop just in time, and walks home with Beech. Beech doesn't like going up the stairs to their apartment. He likes to sit down backwards on the stairs, and push himself up, one step at a time. Bean used to try to talk Beech into walking up the stairs, but now Bean just waits. It isn't easy to get Beech to change his mind about something.

When Bean and Beech finally get inside, Beech wants Bean to read the new comic book to him. Beech can't wait to find out what happens in the new story. Bean wants to let the comic book dry out first. He is afraid the wet pages will tear. But Beech keeps asking, so Bean reads the comic book to him, and some of the