

Name:

Period:

“A Kid Nobody Could Handle” by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.
CHARACTERIZATION – S.T.E.A.L.

Characterization → Theme

5 steps leading to theme

1. Ask: What is the protagonist like? What kind of person is he or she?
2. What is the protagonist’s conflict? What difficulty must the protagonist overcome?
3. How does the protagonist solve the problem or resolve the conflict?
4. What does the protagonist learn as he or she resolves the conflict? What does the protagonist learn about life?
5. What does the protagonist’s newfound knowledge suggest about people or life in general?

Step 1: Characterization – S.T.E.A.L.

Character: George M. Helmholtz	
Speech: What does the character say?	
Thoughts: What does the character think?	
Effect: How does the character interact with other characters? What effect does the character have on others?	
Actions: What does the character do?	

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<p>Looks: What does the character look like?</p>	
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Step 2: What is the conflict? (Hint: Man vs. _____ because...)

Step 3: How does the protagonist solve the problem or resolve the conflict?

Step 4: What does the protagonist learn as he or she faces difficulties and overcomes the challenge?

Step 5: What does the protagonist's newfound knowledge suggest about life in general? Is there a life lesson? (Hint: this is the theme!)

Topics from the story:

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Theme:

Proof from the text that this is the theme: