

Character Analysis

This activity is adapted from a Pinterest pin to meet specific ACTFL and NCSSFL Can-Do statements. See the full document here:

<http://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/ncssfl-actfl-can-do-statements>

- Intermediate Low Presentational Writing: I can write about a topic of interest.
- Intermediate Low Presentational Writing: I write about people, activities, events, and experiences.
- Intermediate Low Presentational Writing: I can write about something I've learned.

The purpose of this activity is to make connections between students and text. In the novel, *El Nuevo Houdini* (available on www.tprstorytelling.com), Brandon Brown “borrows” his father’s car while he is on vacation. Having finished the novel, students will analyze one of the characters as their final assessment.

In this activity, students will show their skills in presentational writing as they use textual evidence to identify the chosen character. One of the keys to increasing proficiency is to continue to use detailed descriptions. A little encouragement goes a long way toward helping students milk the story for all of the details they can think of! I give a 30 point grade for this activity, if they are able to develop the essence of the character through 5 main points and ask one good question about the story from the character’s point of view, they will receive full credit. The idea that a student is writing at the Intermediate Low level in Spanish 1 (creating with language) should trump grammatical accuracy at this point. Intermediate lows need only be understood with ease by those accustomed to language learners.

Make copies for each student you have in class.

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Choose one character in the novel and draw him/her in the center oval. Write his/her name on the line. Now that Brandon is no longer "Houdini," what does your character think of the events of the novel? Use great language and detail to help me see inside your character's mind! In each of the five rectangles, write about a different event in the novel, in Spanish. In the triangle, ask one question that the character might have.

