Character Clues

Authors reveal character traits by providing clues in the text.

Action Clues – Character traits are revealed through the actions and reactions of the character. Good readers carefully observe how the character behaves to make inferences about character traits.
Example: Standing up to a bully shows **courage**.

Verbal Clues – Character traits are revealed by <u>what</u> the character says and <u>how</u> those words are delivered. Sometimes clues can be found in what characters say about each other.
Example: A character who yells, "No! We're going to do it my way!" might be considered **bossy**.

Other Clues – Character traits can be revealed by other clues such as physical appearance, how the character dresses, where he or she lives, interests and hobbies, and so on.
Example: A tiny girl who wears frilly dresses might be considered **dainty**.

Emotions versus Character Traits

Emotions and character traits are similar, but emotions can change from moment to moment, while character traits are developed over time. For example, a character may generally exhibit the trait of cheerfulness, yet he or she may feel the emotion of sadness when a friend moves away.