Character Example

Bobby Smitz had finished his grocery shopping after work. He was putting his pasta and popcorn into the cupboard and whistling a classical piece by Bach when the doorbell rang. Bobby opened the door and took one look at the traveling book salesman standing in the hall.

“Hmmmm,” Bobby said to the young man at the door. “No, not today.”

“Wait—“ the salesman stuttered. But Bobby had already closed the door and was trudging back into the kitchen.

“Let’s see…my bags are packed, the cupboards are full…” Bobby muttered as he retraced his steps. As a soft jazz tune filled the air, Bobby realized that he had forgotten to get his Harley ready to go to Memphis tomorrow. Bobby shrugged carelessly. He supposed his car would work. Bobby turned around and continued to unpack his groceries, whistling all the while.

*What did the author show us about the character?*

*Name:*

*Age:*

*Housing:*

*Secret:*

*Favorite Activity:*

*Shopping List:*

*Sayings:*

Write one or two paragraphs introducing your character as he/she is performing a daily activity. Use descriptive details so the reader can imagine the setting of the story. Reveal information about your character not only by *telling* the reader, but also by *showing* information about the character. For example, you might write:

**Isabelle sighed and wrinkled her nose as she trudged into her bedroom and dropped her schoolbag full of science books near her bed.**

From this sentence, the author knows that Isabelle is a student who takes science classes. The descriptive details show the reader that Isabelle may be tired or sick of her schoolwork or facing another stressful dilemma.