

Start Here · Character change

Classroom copy · 1 October 2026

Teacher planning guide

After teaching Explain How a Character Changes, use a new story to see how students compare early and later evidence. Choose a practice task from their responses, then revisit the same skills with another story.

Start with a lesson

Start with Explain How a Character Changes for modeling, guided work and independent practice. The independent-reading task also uses The Next Test, so use it for further practice when students already know the story.

Gather a new response, then act

After teaching the character-change lesson, use Initial Check. Choose Continue Practice, Clarify the Reasoning, Model and Practice or Extend the Reasoning from what students show. Save Follow-up Check and Later Practice for another independent attempt.

Teacher-only classroom ZIP

The teacher pack includes answer guidance and all the student tasks. Give students only the task you have selected. Save the other stories until they are ready to try them on their own.

Reading focus

Compare early and later character words/actions, explain a defensible local change separate from circumstances, and name a reasonable limit. This is one Grade 6 practice sequence, not a full ELA course.

Open the connected pages

[Character Change Resources](#)

[Character Change: Checks and Practice](#)

[Explain How a Character Changes](#)

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Select separate files

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New stem	PDF pages	Use
Initial Check	1–2	Initial check: save until students can try it on their own
Continue Practice	1–2	Continue Practice: Leena practice
Clarify the Reasoning	1–2	Clarify the Reasoning: Leena practice with neutral prompts
Model and Practice	1–3	Model and Practice: Cora model, then Leena practice
Extend the Reasoning	1–2	Extend the Reasoning: Leena competing interpretations
Follow-up Check	1–2	Follow-up check: a new Nico story
Later Practice	1–2	Later practice: a story showing uneven change in Tess
Teacher Guide	1–16	Teacher only: sequence, routes, keys, record
Start Here	1–3	Teacher only: planning and package map

Each task is available as a printable PDF, editable document and browser copy. In the two-page student tasks, the story comes first and the directions and response space follow. Model and Practice has three pages: model, story and response. Preview editable files before printing because they can reflow.

Teacher guide map

The teacher guide starts with preparation, criteria and practice choices, then gives answer guidance for each task, a private planning record and classroom-use terms. All four practice choices use Leena’s story; repeating one is further practice.

Access

Keep the entire passage available. Neutral read-aloud or text-to-speech, oral response, dictation, and extra processing time may support access. Do not emphasize answer clues, explain motives, select evidence, or paraphrase away the reasoning. Record actual mode, reading help, prompts, other supports, timing, and prior exposure. Follow known local access arrangements.

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Using the included lessons

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Included character-change lesson

The pack includes Explain How a Character Changes, with separate student pages and teacher guidance.

Included character-change independent-reading assignment

The pack also includes an independent-reading task based on The Next Test, with separate teacher notes. Use it for practice after teaching the character-change lesson.

Use and limits

Use separate criteria and tentative local teaching decisions. No summed cutoff, ranking, diagnosis, mastery threshold, equivalent-form claim, or classroom-effectiveness claim. These constructed tasks have not been learner-tested or calibrated.

Save the initial check, follow-up check and later-practice stories until students are ready to try them on their own. Keep the answers for your planning. All four practice choices reuse Leena's story, so a second choice is further practice. Model and Practice also includes the Cora model.

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