# Lesson Plan: Teaching Characterization *In Cold Blood* using Flokio

**Sierra Fisher**  
**Grades:** 9-10  
**Duration:** One class period

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<th>Objectives</th>
<th>STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:</th>
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|            | • Provide a working definition of characterization  
|            | • Select instances of characterization (quotes, descriptions, etc.) from *In Cold Blood*  
|            | • Provide thoughtful commentary on the development of a character throughout the novel using these instances  
|            | • Articulate their thoughts on a character on the Flokio blog  
|            | • Provide feedback to other students on their character analyses |

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<th>Materials</th>
<th>STUDENTS/TEACHER WILL NEED:</th>
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|           | • Copies of *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote  
|           | • Characterization Worksheet  
|           | • Computer Access  
|           | • Flokio Account |

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<th>Procedure</th>
<th>BEFORE CLASS:</th>
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|           | • Students should have completed their reading of *In Cold Blood*  
|           | • Teacher should have created a private Flokio group titled “In Cold Blood Discussion”  
|           | • Students should create their own Flokio account and be added to the private group by the teacher |

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<th>DURING CLASS:</th>
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|       | • Pass out characterization worksheet  
|       | • Have the students each write down their definition of characterization and call on students to share |
• Share the dictionary definition with the students for them to write down
  --Characterization is the portrayal, description, and creation of convincing characters through means of physical description, thoughts, actions, speech, and feelings.
• Have a group discussion about what students feel the importance of characterization is in a novel
• Have the students write a short paragraph on their worksheet where they create a character and provide characterization of them
• With the novel, begin a short discussion on ways that students think Capote characterizes his characters (try to stay general, students will go more in depth in their homework)
• Assign Flokio Homework

CONTINUATION (HOMEWORK):
• Students will select one major character from *In Cold Blood* to complete a more in-depth character analysis on (major meaning that the student will need to find enough examples of characterization)
• On the private group on Flokio, each student will make a post providing five instances of characterization for their chosen character
• The examples should be quoted and with a page number
• For each of the examples, the student will tell the circumstances surrounding their quote, why they feel like it is an important piece of characterization, and what they learned about the character from that quote
• The student will make a thoughtful response to two other students posts on two characters different from their selected character

Assessment

STUDENTS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IF:
• They actively participate in the class discussion
• They complete and turn in the characterization worksheet and paragraph that provides concrete examples of characterization
• They make one post on Flokio
• They provide five different examples in their post that are quoted with a page number
• They correctly identify examples of characterization and attempt to explain its importance
• They provide two responses on characters on then their own
INDIANA TEACHING STANDARDS:

English/Language Arts

- **Standard 9.3.7:** Recognize and understand the significance of various literary devices, including figurative language, imagery, and symbolism, and explain their appeal.
- **Standard 9.3.3:** Analyze interactions between characters in a literary text and explain the way those interactions affect the plot.
- **Standard 9.3.4:** Determine characters' traits by what the characters say about themselves in narration, dialogue, and soliloquy.
- **Standard 9.3.9:** Explain how voice and the choice of a narrator affect characterization and the tone, plot, and credibility of a text.
- **Standard 10.5.2:** Write responses to literature that demonstrate a comprehensive grasp of the significant ideas of literary works, support statements with evidence from the text, demonstrate awareness of the author's style and an appreciation of the effects created, and identify and assess the impact of ambiguities, nuances, and complexities within the text.