

Journal: Reading Between the Lines

Every text you read leaves something unsaid, and what a character chooses not to say can matter as much as what they do.

Choose a character from a text you have studied recently. Assess that character's motivations, attitudes and relationships, and explain how the text creator's tone and register communicate a moral or ethical stance toward that character, whether stated outright or left implicit ([Outcome](#)).

Where to start:

- What does the character want, and what stands in the way?
- Where does the narrator's or author's tone shift when this character appears? What word choices signal that shift?
- Does the text seem to approve, condemn, or stay neutral toward this character's choices? How can you tell?
- What subtext, if any, complicates the surface reading of this character?

Stretch:

Compare this character to an archetype you recognize (the outsider, the mentor, the trickster). Explain how using or subverting that archetype shapes the text's theme ([Outcome](#)).