

NAME:

DATE:

CLASS:

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty

LITERARY ANALYSIS: CHARACTER

There are many different types of characters found in short stories. A **round character** is complex, showing many different qualities—revealing faults as well as virtues, where as a **flat character** is one-dimensional, showing only a single trait. A **dynamic character** develops, changes, and learns something during the course of a story, unlike a **static character**, who remains the same.

PART I. DIRECTIONS: For each item, write a sentence (at least 10 words) telling what character trait or traits the passage reveals.

1. Mrs. Mitty: *“We’ve been all through that,” she said, getting out of the car. “You’re not a young man any longer.” He raced the engine a little. “Why don’t you wear your gloves? Have you lost your gloves?”*

CHARACTER TRAITS of MRS. MITTY _____

2. Walter Mitty: *Once he had tried to take his chains off [the tires], outside New Milford, and he had got them wound around the axles. A man had had to come out in a wrecking car and unwind them, a young, grinning garageman. Since then Mrs. Mitty always made him drive to a garage to have the chains taken off. The next time, he thought, I’ll wear my right arm in a sling; they won’t grin at me then.*

CHARACTER TRAITS of WALTER MITTY _____

3. Walter Mitty: *A woman’s scream rose above the bedlam and suddenly a lovely, dark-haired girl was in Walter Mitty’s arms. The District Attorney struck at her savagely. Without rising from his chair, Mitty let the man have it on the point of the chin. “You miserable cur!” . . .*

CHARACTER TRAITS of WALTER MITTY _____

4. Mrs. Mitty and Walter Mitty: *“Did you get the what’s-its-name? The puppy biscuit? What’s in that box?” “Overshoes,” said Mitty. “Couldn’t you have put them on in the store?” “I was thinking,” said Walter Mitty. “Does it ever occur to you that I am sometimes thinking?” She looked at him. “I’m going to take your temperature when I get you home,” she said.*

CHARACTER TRAITS of MRS. MITTY & WALTER MITTY’S RELATIONSHIP _____

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Open-Book Quiz

DIRECTIONS: *Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.*

1. In Walter Mitty's daydreams, how do the other characters treat him?

- A. respectfully
- B. sympathetically
- C. scornfully
- D. impatiently

2. Judging from what she says and does, how does Mrs. Mitty feel about her husband?

- A. She loves and respects him.
- B. She is proud of him.
- C. She is irritated and annoyed with him.
- D. She is frightened of him.

3. Why might you consider Mrs. Mitty a flat character?

- A. She changes at the end of the story.
- B. She does not change.
- C. She has many character traits.
- D. She has only one main character trait.

4. In his daydreams, which of the following character traits does Walter Mitty imagine that he has?

- A. humor
- B. strength
- C. courage
- D. patience

5. Why does Thurber include Walter Mitty's daydreams in his story?

- A. They are funny.
- B. They create suspense.
- C. They reveal Mitty's character.
- D. They reveal Mrs. Mitty's character.

6. What is the author's purpose in including this passage in "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"?

"Not so fast! You're driving too fast!" said Mrs. Mitty. "What are you driving so fast for?"

- A. to show that Walter Mitty is a skillful driver
- B. to entertain the reader with Mrs. Mitty's joke
- C. to create sympathy for Mrs. Mitty
- D. to show that Mrs. Mitty orders her husband around

7. In this passage from Thurber's story, why is the garageman grinning when he comes to help Walter Mitty unwind the chains from his tires?

Once he had tried to take his chains off, outside New Milford, and he had got them wound around the axles. A man had had to come out in a wrecking car and unwind them, a young, grinning garageman.

- A. Mitty has just told him a joke.
- B. The garageman is being friendly.
- C. The garageman is laughing at Mitty.
- D. The garageman always grins.

8. Why is Walter Mitty a static character, not a dynamic one?

- A. He has not changed or learned anything by the end of the story.
- B. At the end of the story, he decides to give up daydreaming.
- C. He is weak and timid.
- D. He does not communicate well with Mrs. Mitty.