



At IBW *Multimedia*[™] ~ Character Counts

We have very specific editorial goals for all stories, regardless of age. Yes, the writing (vocabulary and comprehension) must align with specific literacy development levels. But, equally important are the *qualities* we wish to see in a story's characters.

Think of these qualities as the themes around which stories evolve:

After hearing/reading the story, the child would understand the essence of character qualities addressed in the theme.

Q: How do I write a story ON these qualities?

A: Many different approaches are possible. Here are two: (1) Write a story that involves the positive of a quality as the focus of the story. Or, (2) write the story with focus on the opposite of the quality. This opposite approach then enables you to show your character learning/acquiring/exhibiting the quality in the course of your plot and resolution.

EXAMPLE: *RESPONSIBILITY*. Main character is obsessing over a new game he is playing. Spending too much time on the game leaves him too little time to do his *responsibilities*. Resulting havoc: cat doesn't get fed and hunger drives him wacko, making mess of house (knocking over plants, etc.); dog doesn't receive clean water and digs large holes in yard; boy rushes home from school, forgetting to walk sister home from school, etc.; suddenly mom/dad are home. All is a disaster and sister isn't even home. Search begins for sister, etc. *Get the idea?*

Q: Will you consider a story that is absent of one of these qualities.

A: *Of course!* But, also *of course* is that a story without one of these qualities has an enormous *hill to climb* on its way to acceptance. So it must be a HUGELY original concept! An AMAZING story with AMAZING storytelling! Like other publishers, there are themes that *best fit* editorial goals. These are the best fit for **IBW *Multimedia!***

Characters with Character that Count:

Acceptance (think <i>Golden Rule</i>)	Patience
Accountability	Perseverance
Citizenship (with the story's community base)	Reliability
Compassion	Respect
Courtesy	Responsibility
Dedication (to people and/or tasks)	Self-Sacrifice
Dependability	Self-Control
Determination	Self-Discipline
Devotion	Self-Respect
Endurance	Sportsmanship
Friendliness	Temper (calmness; composure)
Honesty	Temptation (overcoming based upon principles/morals)
Integrity (themes that show character valuing)	Tolerance
Kindness	Truthfulness
Loyalty	Trustworthiness
Manners	Values (adhering to what one believes)