"Goin' Fishin'"

Chris Crutcher | Narrative Writing

Flashback are interruptions in the action of the story. They tell about something that happened earlier in a character's life. An author often uses flashbacks to provide background information about a situation or a character. In "Goin' Fishin" by Chris Crutcher, events that took place when Lionel was fourteen are revealed through flashbacks.

Directions: As you read the short story, <u>highlight or underline</u> words, phrases, and sentences that give you clues about the flashback.

For example, in paragraph two of the story, you could highlight "...almost three years ago..." because it gives you a clue that the narrator is interrupting the action of the story and telling about something that happened in the past.

Now, in at least five sentences, tell how these *flashback* events shaped Lionel as a person.

<u>Characterization</u> is the way an author reveals a character. Crutcher develops Lionel's character through both *direct* and *indirect characterization*. We learn about Lionel through indirect characterization: what other characters say and think about his appearance, his actions, and his thoughts. We also learn about Lionel's character from the author's straightforward commentary, or direct characterization.

Directions: Fill in the table on the back of this sheet.

Underneath each name, write a trait to describe him/her.	Copy a passage from the story that shows that trait. Please include the page number.	Write either "Indirect Characterization "or "Direct Characterization" to show what kind of characterization is shown in the passage.
Lionel		
Elaine		
Neal		
Lionel's father		