

Character Types Worksheet 2

Directions: Read the short story. Pay close attention to the characters. Answer the questions.

"Clean out your desk. You're fired. I want you out of here by the end of the day," Lawrence shouted at Miguel Diaz, a low-level machine operator. "But, Mr. Roberts, sir, may I have two more weeks to find another job? I have kids," responded Miguel with tears in his eyes. Lawrence Roberts laughed, "Yeah, a lot of kids are starving in Asia too, and they aren't getting two more weeks either. End of the day, Me-gail!" Mr. Roberts replied, deliberately mispronouncing Miguel's name. Miguel went to clean out his desk and Lawrence Roberts went to lunch.

While driving to an expensive Italian restaurant in an expensive foreign car, Lawrence did not think much about Miguel. After seeing Miguel eat a bagel on the job earlier in the week, Lawrence assumed that Miguel was lazy and gluttonous. That was all he needed. Lawrence enjoyed firing him, and then he thought to move on with his life. That was before he looked to the right to make a turn and noticed his dead brother sitting in the seat beside him.

"Ahhhhhh!" Lawrence screamed as the spectral form of his brother floated in the passenger side with his seatbelt ironically pulled over his chest. Lawrence swerved through the oncoming traffic, narrowly avoiding a collision with an SUV. He parked on the front lawn of a tanning booth parlor and jumped out. Lawrence continued screaming as he ran from the car, but the form pursued him. "Laaaaawrence, I'm still faster than you," the ghost brother said as he overtook Lawrence. Lawrence, out of breath, stopped and put his hands on his knees.

"OK, you win. What do you want? You want to shame me for not visiting you when you were sick. OK, I feel bad. I'm sorry. Is that what you want?" The ghost laughed, "No Lawrence, you fool. You are in a position to bring good to the world, and you are only bringing pain and sadness. Do you remember that man that you fired today?" Lawrence had to think. "Yes, Miguel Diaz. The man is lazy. All he does is sit around and eat," Lawrence said dismissively. His brother attempted to slap the back of his head but his hand passed through him. Lawrence felt an eerie chill. "Lawrence, you buffoon, that man was working through his lunch break, covering for someone else on a day that he wasn't even supposed to work. He's the hardest worker in the plant." Lawrence thought about it for a second and returned, "Well, whatever. What's done is done. He'll find another job." His brother grabbed Lawrence by the shoulders and they faded into an ethereal mist.

When Lawrence and his brother reappeared, they were inside of Miguel Diaz's home. He and his wife were sobbing at the table. "I worked so hard for that man. I put love into everything that I did, and he cast me out like a sock with a hole in it," Miguel confided in his wife. Lawrence was afraid to step out of the pantry. His ghostly brother told him, "Don't worry, Lawrence. They can't see or hear you. I want to show you something." The ghost took him to the top of the stairs where Miguel's three children were secretly listening to their parents. The oldest child had his arm around the middle child, who was quietly sobbing. The youngest child was holding his piggy bank. "That's what I wanted to show you, Lawrence," said the spirit. "He reminds me of you, Lawrence, he's going to offer that piggy bank to his father. Didn't you do the same thing when our father fell on hard times?"

Lawrence thought back to when he was a child, before his father started the successful factory, when his father had been laid off from his job. A twinkle appeared in Lawrence's eyes and his cold heart cracked. His brother grabbed him by the shoulders again and they faded away through time and space together.

When Lawrence reappeared, he was alone in his expensive luxury car in the parking lot of an expensive Italian restaurant. He heard the voice of his brother pass through the air, "It's not toooooo late..." and Lawrence started up the car. He raced back to the plant and caught Miguel just as he was about to drive out of the parking lot. Lawrence fish tailed his car around and blocked Miguel in his spot.

"Miguel, I'm sorry," Lawrence shouted as he ran at Miguel's car. "This plant needs people like you. People like you made this plant. This plant can only continue with people like you." Miguel looked suspiciously at the rich old man as he stuck his head in Miguel's passenger side window. "You hurt me, Mr. Roberts, but I do need this job." Lawrence smiled broadly. "Not as much as we need you, Miguel. How about we give you a promotion and double your salary?" Miguel put the car in park and turned off the ignition.

Three months later the plant was operating with greater efficiency and making more money than it ever had. Lawrence and Miguel bonded over lunch at a fancy Italian restaurant. They clinked their glasses together as they toasted to the past, present, and future. As Lawrence and Miguel cheered life, Lawrence felt an eerie chill around his shoulder. Lawrence found this chill comforting.

1. Which character is best described as the **protagonist**? _____

Explain your answer.

2. Is Miguel a **dynamic** or **static** character? _____

Explain your answer.

3. Is Lawrence a **static** or **dynamic** character? _____

Explain your answer.

4. Is Lawrence a **round** or **flat** character? _____

Explain your answer.

5. Is the ghost of Lawrence's brother a **static** or **dynamic** character? _____

Explain your answer.

6. Is Miguel's oldest child a **round** or **flat** character? _____

Explain your answer.

7. Is Miguel's youngest child a **static** or **dynamic** character? _____

Explain your answer.

8. Is the ghost of Lawrence's brother a **round** or **flat** character? _____

Explain your answer.

9. Is Miguel an **antagonist**? _____

Explain your answer.

10. Is Miguel's wife a **round** character? _____

Explain your answer.