

Sheet 5: Identifying Character Motivations

Worked example:

Read: Kit the fox paced around his messy desk. 'I need to find a way to organize these files before the library opens,' he muttered, tapping his chin. Why is Kit pacing? A) He is bored. B) He is worried about finishing his task.

Answer: B) He is worried about finishing his task.

- **Read the passage:** Pip the caterpillar sat on a large oak leaf, staring at the pile of books he had collected. 'I shall read every single one before the fall frost arrives,' he declared, adjusting his tiny glasses. 'It will be a grand challenge, but my shelves will be full of knowledge.' Pip reached out and pulled a dusty volume toward him, his eyes sparkling with excitement.
- **Based on the passage, what is Pip's main goal?**
- **Find a piece of evidence (a quote) that shows Pip is feeling excited.**
- **Why does Pip mention the 'fall frost'? What does this tell us about his time limit?**
- **If Pip were not excited, how might his actions change? (e.g., would he be pulling the book toward him?)**
- **What does Pip's choice of words ('grand challenge') tell us about his personality?**

Self-check: Check your answers against the text: did you provide a reason for Pip's actions and back it up with a quote from the passage?

Ready for next: Once you can explain a character's motivation through their actions and words, you are ready to analyze a full chapter extract.