

Understanding Characters Through Their Internal Stories

- Writers reveal their characters by **exposing their thoughts**.
- They consider how **a character's internal story impacts the action**.
- Writers build interesting characters by allowing the reader to **"see"** and **"hear"** them, but also by letting readers know their **characters' thoughts**.
- Most good writers switch back and forth between external story (**description and dialogue**), and the internal story (**thoughts and backstories**).
- **Authors don't always give clues like "I think,"** to show that the character is thinking.

The Moustache

- As we read the story, "The Moustache," **highlight passages that show the character's internal story (thoughts and backstory)**.
- Go back through with a partner and **underline passages that show external story (descriptions and dialogue)**.
- With a partner answer these questions:
 - What do you notice about the balance of the two?
 - Would the story be as effective if it didn't include one of the types of descriptions?
 - Could it be better if the story include more of a certain type of description?