characterization: the method a writer uses to reveal the personality of a character in a literary work; personality may be revealed (1) by what the character says or thinks about him or herself; (2) by what others say or think about the character; and (3) by the character's own actions (requiring an inference on the part of the reader).

(1) and (2) are called **direct characterization**. (3) is called **indirect characterization**.

"[I'm] Yosemite Sam. The roughest, toughest, he-man stuffest hombre whose ever crossed the Rio Grande." By his own description, Sam is a brawler and bruiser, spoiling for a fight. This is how he directly represents himself to others.

(direct characterization)

Stripped of his macho veneer (as when he descends into Hell), Yosemite Sam is capable of displaying unexpected depths of emotion and can be quite contrite about his own bad behavior. In this case, it is revealed by his tears rather self-description. It also requires an inference to supply the description, whereas direct characterization does not.

(indirect characterization)

Conclusions: Notice that there is a gap between words and deeds. However, this does not necessarily mean that one is true and the other is not. For example, are Sam's tears in Hell really proof that he is sorry for what he has done? Or is he just sorry that he has been caught? Similarly, part of the joke about Yosemite Sam is that he isn't half as frightening as his self-description might suggest. In both cases there is some level of ambiguity in interpretation-- to say nothing of the possibility that both ways of thinking about Sam may be true (since people are complicated and contain contradictions). It is your job to clarify this sort of ambiguity and complexity in explanation, forcing you to interpret the character in some way (to argue a position).

DIRECTIONS: Given this information complete the following activity using Taeko Kōno's "Bone Meat."

Using the narrator of "Bone Meat," explain (in at least two paragraphs) to what extent specific instances of direct and indirect characterization either agree, disagree, or some combination of agreement and disagreement. You should include direct references to the text, and at least some of it must be direct quotation. Whenever you quote from a text in this class, you must use parenthetical citations (including only a page number in parentheses if you are a working with a single text, as you are here; if you were using multiple texts, you would cite by author last name and page number).

For evidence, you should be looking for typical examples from the story in order to synthesize an argument that indicates to your reader something that is *generally* true about the text, so avoid atypical data that leads to false (or misleading) conclusions.

More credit will be given to answers that use the concept of direct and indirect characterization to say something interesting about text. In other words, you should use the assignment as a way to make an argument about the author's overall purpose. Start with what you find interesting in "Bone Meat," and use the manner in which the author characterizes the woman as your means of analyzing the text.

If you prefer, you may also do this activity with the supplemental Kōno story "Iron Fish" instead of "Bone Meat."

There are two aids to help you complete this activity. First is specific to this activity and is found under "Supplemental Resources" for the Kōno story on the AP English IV section of my web-page (https://www.davidson-eng.net/ap-english-iv.html). It includes a model. Second are the characterization mini-lessons found in the AP Writing Resources section of my web-page (https://www.davidson-eng.net/ap-writing-resources.html). These review the topic more generally and discuss writing strategies.

The assignment is due at midnight Friday September 7. If you turn in the assignment early enough (at least a day or two), I will mark it up with corrections and comments as if it were a timed writing draft, returning it to you for revision. If you turn in the assignment at any point before the due date, you will receive a small incentive bonus (+3 points). If you miss the midnight deadline but turn in the assignment before eight hours have elapsed, there will be a small point deduction (-3 points). If you turn in the assignment between eight and twenty-four hours late there will be a larger point deduction (-10 points). If you turn in the assignment at any point after that, there will be a substantial point deduction (-20 points; this is a flat deduction, not a cumulative one based on the number of days late). If you turn in the assignment late, but do not want points deducted, you may earn back credit by doing the assignment AND doing the assignment again with Taeko Kōno's "Iron Fish" (downloadable from my web-site), requiring you to read another text and doubling the work (the two portions will be averaged as a single grade).

A Basic Guide to Parenthetical Citations

"_____" or paraphrase (author last name   page number) .

If you are using just one source, you do not need this (as long as it is clear who said it).

If you establish the author in the introduction to the quote/paraphrase (even with multiple sources), you also do not need this.

end punctuation: period, comma, question mark, etc.

You will eventually get a more detailed guide to MLA citation, but I do not want to overwhelm you on the first assignment of the year with more information than you really need. Remember, you don't have to include the author's last name when using one text (as you will be doing here). In such cases, all you need is the page number.

If you do not use parenthetical citations, you will lose points on the final grade. Parenthetical references are a requirement for assignments in this class (just like they will be in college).