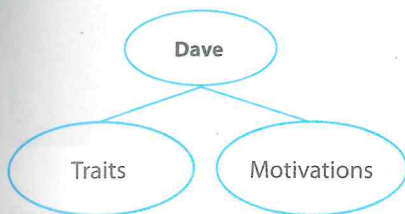## Analyze Character

Characters are the people, animals, or other figures in a story. Analyzing characters' traits and motivations helps you understand both the characters and the story.

- **Character traits** are a character's personal qualities.
- **Character motivations** are the reasons characters act the way they do.

As you read "Heartbeat," consider what you can learn about Dave, the main character, through his thoughts, words, and actions. Make and complete a diagram like the one below to analyze his traits and motivations.

Dave
- Traits
- Motivations

Analyze Conflict

Every story is built upon a **conflict,** or a struggle between opposing forces. Two types of conflicts often appear in stories.

- An **external conflict** is a struggle against an outside force, such as nature, a physical obstacle, or another character.
- An **internal conflict** is a struggle that occurs in a character's mind, often due to a clash in feelings, thoughts, or values.

A story's **setting**—the time and place of the action—may also affect character development.

As you read "Heartbeat," look closely at the struggle Dave faces. Infer whether it reveals a primarily external or internal conflict.

Focus on Genre
↳ **Short Story**

- has a single idea and can be read in one sitting
- develops one or more characters
- presents a plot with one main conflict
- includes a setting
- may be realistic or imaginary
- often conveys a theme or lesson about life

Heartbeat **101**

Focus on Genre
↳ **Short Story**

Remind students that **short stories** a that have a single main idea and can sitting. Point out that the characters, conflict are usually introduced at the the story and that the conflict is reso Explain that like novels, short stories more themes and often include symb language, and foreshadowing.

Analyze Character

- Tell students that evaluating cha allows readers to analyze the cha **motivations**.
- Explain that a character's words a be positive, negative, or neutral. characters feel about themselves events, and settings.

Analyze Conflict

- Tell students that all stories use s **conflict** to drive the plot forward a story interesting and keeps the reader.
- Review the differences between **internal conflict**.
- Have students consider the follow as they read to help them determ the conflict in "Heartbeat" is mos internal:
  - What do Dave's thoughts and f about him?
  - Does Dave have a problem with character in the story?
  - Is Dave struggling to prove son himself or to others?

> **Tips and Tricks!**
>
> Use the proficiency reports on l well students understand the sl and to inform your instruction.

Ed

Text Sketch

(DI) DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION
When Students Struggle...

Visualize the Story Use **Text Sketch** to help students visualize the characters, setting, and conflicts in the story.

- Display Text Sketch and use the visuals to preview the story and activate students' prior knowledge about making healthy and unhealthy choices.
- Then, have students use the questions to help them follow along as they read the story.
- After reading, arrange students in small groups to check their responses in each section and discuss the story. Call on different groups to share their answers.