

Examples of Indirect Characterization from *The Cat in the Hat*

Type of Indirect Characterization	Examples	Explanation
S peech	Many of the words spoken by the cat at the beginning of the story have an upbeat connotative meaning. For instance, the cat says to the children, "But we can have / Lots of fun that is funny!" (7). So all we could do was to Sit! Sit! Sit! And we did not like it. Not one little bit (3).	This reveals that the cat's character is an upbeat character that likes to have fun. These are the thoughts of the narrator as he stares out the window on a rainy day. These thoughts reveal that this character is not happy about his current situation.
T houghts		
E ffect on others	Throughout the first three quarters of the story, three different illustrations portray the fish scowling at the cat (11, 25, and 37) immediately after each of the cat's activities. When the cat returns to clean up his mess at the end of the story the fish is shown with a smile on his face (57). On page 18, the cat engages in "Up-up-up with a fish" an activity that involves the cat standing on a ball while balancing seven objects. Later in the story, the cat releases two "things" that fly kites inside the house.	The scowls on the fish's face support the argument that the cat's behavior at the beginning of the story is not acceptable to the fish. The fish's smile at the end of the story reveals that the cat is engaging in behavior that is now acceptable to the fish. These activities are outrageous, dangerous and should not be conducted in the house. They reveal that the cat's character is not concerned about rules related to safety and appropriateness.
A ctions	Throughout the first three-quarters of the story, the cat is shown with a smile on his face. Towards the end of the story, however, when the cat is told to leave, he is shown leaving the house with slumped shoulders and a sad face.	The smiles reveal that the cat is enjoying himself and is not apologetic for his outrageous behavior. The frown and slumped shoulders at the end of the story show that he is not enjoying himself anymore.
L ooks		