



A Wrinkle in Time

fun activities

What a Character!

In many books the protagonist, or lead character, is portrayed as being without flaws. The truth is, no one is perfect. For characters to be believable they have to seem real. Meg, the main character in *A Wrinkle in Time*, is far from perfect which is part of the reason we love her. She is stubborn and impatient, quick-tempered and insecure – all of which make her a very unlikely hero.

Often times, the protagonist must overcome whatever weaknesses he or she has to succeed; but in *A Wrinkle in Time* Meg's imperfections are the very things that help her. During the course of the story our leading character comes to learn that her biggest shortcomings are also her greatest strengths.

Everyone wants to “fit in.” In fact, Meg praises her twin brothers, Sandy and Dennys, for their averageness and ability to blend in. On the other hand, she hates how different she is and describes herself as “an oddball (p. 17).

What do you think? Is it better to be “normal” and unremarkable or different and exceptional? How can the things that Meg dislikes

about herself be the very things she needs for her incredible journey? Why do you think the author chooses to include Meg and Charles Wallace, rather than the twins, in the adventure? Write a journal entry that discusses these questions. Then, describe your own weaknesses and how they can also be considered strengths when used correctly.

Finally, get a copy of the *Orlando Sentinel* or go online to view the newspaper. Find a story describing a modern-day conflict. What characteristics do the people in the story have? Are they thoughtful or impulsive, fearful or brave? Would you consider these traits to be strengths or weaknesses? How would the outcome of the situation have been different if the people had different characteristics? Include your thoughts in your journal.

This activity meets the following official State of Florida standard(s):
LAFS.5.RI.1.2, LAFS.5.RI.3.7, LAFS.5.RI.3.8, LAFSL5LRF.4.4 and LAFS.5.W.3.9.

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