

# YOUR TURN!

## CHARACTER GROWTH ACTIVITY

### *The Big Question*

What was a defining moment in your growth toward maturity?

#### WRITING INSTRUCTION

After reading three short stories, you now have the opportunity to create an oral presentation explaining one protagonist's growth from the point of view of that protagonist. Imagine you are Chatita from "The Whistle," Greg from "The Treasure of Lemon Brown," or Roger from "Thank You, M'am." Write a reflection on the significant experience in the story that contributed to your maturity. Include a description of the influence that another character from the story has had on your development. Use textual details from the short story to support your

descriptions. As you write the reflection, you will create imagined details for the protagonist that are consistent with the short story but may not be supplied directly by the text.

Your written reflection should be one or two paragraphs. Your oral presentation of the reflection should be one to three minutes. Begin the reflection with an introduction of yourself as the character. End the reflection with a discussion of what you hope others will learn from your experience.

#### 1. PLANNING

- Select a protagonist from "The Whistle," "The Treasure of Lemon Brown," or "Thank You, M'am."
- Choose textual details from the short story that support both the reflection on the experience that contributed to the protagonist's maturing and the explanation of another character's influence on that growth.
- Create imagined personal details of the protagonist's life that align with the story and support the reflection.

#### 2. DRAFTING

- Write a one- to two-paragraph reflection discussing the experience that contributed to the protagonist's maturing and another character's influence on that growth.
- Double-space your rough draft to make it easy to revise.
- Use the correct form for this reflection. Write the reflection entirely in first person as the protagonist. Begin by introducing yourself; end with a lesson that you hope the audience will learn.
- Include textual details and imagined details that align with the story and support the reflection.

#### 3. REVISING

- Verify that you have used the correct form and have communicated the experience that contributed to the protagonist's maturing and another character's influence on that growth.
- Check that you have included textual and imagined details that support the reflection.
- Rephrase any unclear wording.
- Rewrite your reflection, making all the appropriate changes.

#### 4. PROOFREADING

- Evaluate your reflection for correct grammar, word usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.
- Correct any errors.

#### 5. PUBLISHING

- Create a clean copy of your reflection. Double-space your final copy and include your name and the date.
- Record an oral presentation of the reflection.

# YOUR TURN!

## CHARACTER GROWTH RUBRIC

### MESSAGE

#### Purpose

- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Excellent:** Reflection displays sufficient analysis of the character's growth and of another character's influence on that growth.
- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Good:** Reflection displays some analysis of the character's growth and of another character's influence on that growth.
- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Weak:** Reflection displays little analysis of the character's growth or of another character's influence on that growth.

#### Form

- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Excellent:** Reflection is entirely in first-person narration from the protagonist's point of view.
- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Good:** Reflection is mostly in first-person narration from the protagonist's point of view.
- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Weak:** Reflection is rarely in first-person narration from the protagonist's point of view.

### MECHANICS

#### Grammar/Usage

- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Excellent:** Student demonstrates a command of agreement, pronoun reference, word usage, and complete sentences.
- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Good:** Student demonstrates an adequate understanding of agreement, pronoun reference, word usage, and complete sentences.
- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Weak:** Student makes many errors in agreement, pronoun reference, word usage, or complete sentences.

#### Spelling

- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Excellent:** Student demonstrates a command of grade-level spelling.

- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Good:** Student demonstrates an adequate understanding of grade-level spelling.
- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Weak:** Student misspells many grade-level words.

#### Capitalization/Punctuation

- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Excellent:** Student demonstrates a command of grade-level capitalization and punctuation.
- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Good:** Student demonstrates an adequate understanding of grade-level capitalization and punctuation.
- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Weak:** Student makes many errors in grade-level capitalization or punctuation.

### ORAL PRESENTATION

#### Speaking

- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Excellent:** Student demonstrates effective oral communication, volume, and eye contact; student delivers presentation within the time limit.
- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Good:** Student demonstrates somewhat effective oral communication, volume, and eye contact; student delivers presentation within fifteen seconds over or under the time limit.
- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Weak:** Student demonstrates little effective oral communication, volume, or eye contact; student delivers presentation more than fifteen seconds over or under the time limit.

#### Listening

- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Excellent:** Student demonstrates appropriate and respectful audience etiquette.
- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Good:** Student demonstrates somewhat appropriate and respectful audience etiquette.
- \_\_\_\_ (pts) **Weak:** Student demonstrates little appropriate or respectful audience etiquette.

## David and Goliath

### The Big Question

How do I trust God when facing those who oppose Him?

#### GENRE

A **biblical narrative** is a divinely inspired, God-given account of real-life events. Biblical narratives,

like narrative fiction, contain many literary elements such as setting, plot, conflict, and dialogue.

#### AUTHOR'S CRAFT

In "The Whistle" you have studied the characters' traits, actions, dialogue, and motivations. You have also traced that story's conflict and plot points of exposition (which includes the setting), inciting incident, rising action, crisis, climax, falling action, and resolution (p. 5). You can examine many of these literary elements in this biblical narrative as well. The narrative's use of dialogue to reveal character reflects the Bible's own teaching on speech as one of the truest expressions of a person's heart (Matt. 12:34b).

Additionally, the conflict serves as a test to reveal the protagonist's true nature and serves to advance the plot. An **antagonist** is the primary force or character against whom the protagonist struggles. The antagonist in a narrative may or may not qualify as a **villain**, an evil or cruel antagonist. This struggle between the protagonist and antagonist is often a narrative's main conflict.

#### READER'S CRAFT

As you did for the previous short stories, make inferences about character traits and motivations by examining the characters' words and actions in this biblical narrative. As you infer character traits, compare and contrast (p. 13) the traits and motivations of the characters. Identify the protagonist and the antagonist. Determine whether the antagonist's traits and motivations distinguish this character as a villain.

As you read this narrative, identify the conflict as external or internal and trace how the conflict and its resolution shape the plot. After you read the story, label the plot points. Examining these literary elements can help deepen your appreciation for this familiar narrative.

# David and Goliath

1 Samuel 17     **Illustrator** Del Thompson

In 1 Samuel 16 the prophet Samuel, at God's direction, anoints David, a shepherd, to be the next king of Israel because of King Saul's disobedience. Saul employs David to play music that soothes Saul from the effects of an evil spirit sent by the Lord. Although David has been anointed as king, he remains a shepherd while Saul continues to lead Israel.

**N**ow the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched<sup>1</sup> between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array<sup>2</sup> against the Philistines. And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, and there was a valley between them. And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits<sup>3</sup> and a span<sup>4</sup>. And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels<sup>5</sup> of brass. And he had greaves<sup>6</sup> of brass upon his legs and a target<sup>7</sup> of brass between his shoulders. And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels<sup>8</sup> of iron; and one bearing a shield went before him.

And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel and said unto them, "Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? Am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? Choose you a man for you and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me and to kill me, then will we be your servants, but if I prevail against him and kill him, then shall ye be our servants and serve us." And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together." When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. ■

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1. *pitched*: placed or set up
  2. *array*: a regular and imposing arrangement
  3. *cubits*: originally the length of the forearm from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger; in English measurement, eighteen inches
  4. *span*: the space from the end of the thumb to the end of the little finger when extended; in English measurement, nine inches
  5. *five thousand shekels*: approximately 126 pounds
  6. *greaves*: armor for the part of the leg below the knee
  7. *target*: a kind of small shield, especially one of circular form
  8. *six hundred shekels*: fifteen pounds

1. Which of Goliath's traits can you infer from his words?

Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehemjudah whose name was Jesse, and he had eight sons, and the man went among men for an old man in the days of Saul. And the three eldest sons of Jesse went and followed Saul to the battle, and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. And David was the youngest, and the three eldest followed Saul. But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. And the Philistine drew near morning and evening and presented himself forty days. And Jesse said unto David his son, "Take now for thy brethren an ephah<sup>9</sup> of this parched corn and these ten loaves and run to the camp to thy brethren, and carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge<sup>10</sup>."

Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. And David rose up early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper and took and went, as Jesse had commanded him, and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle. For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army. And David left his carriage<sup>11</sup> in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted<sup>12</sup> his brethren.

And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words, and David heard them. And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were sore<sup>13</sup> afraid. ■

And the men of Israel said, "Have ye seen this man that is come up? Surely to defy Israel is he come up; and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel."

And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, "What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine and taketh away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

And the people answered him after this manner, saying, "So shall it be done to the man that killeth him."

And Eliab, his eldest brother, heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, "Why camest thou down hither? And with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride and the naughtiness of thine heart, for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle."

And David said, "What have I now done? Is there not a cause?" And he turned from him toward another and spake after the same manner, and the people answered him again after the former manner. And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed<sup>14</sup> them before Saul, and he sent for him. ■

9. *ephah*: a measurement equivalent to approximately twenty dry quarts

10. *pledge*: something given as a guarantee; something considered as a token or sign

11. *carriage*: (obsolete) baggage or burden

12. *saluted*: greeted

13. *sore*: severely

14. *rehearsed*: repeated

2. How would you describe Saul and the men of Israel?

3. Which of Eliab's character traits can you infer from the dialogue?





And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

And Saul said to David, "Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

And David said unto Saul, "Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion and a bear and took a lamb out of the flock, and I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth; and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God." David said moreover, "The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine." ❏

And Saul said unto David, "Go, and the LORD be with thee."

And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also, he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed<sup>15</sup> to go, for he had not proved<sup>16</sup> it. And David said unto Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not proved them."

15. *assayed*: attempted

16. *proved*: tested

4. Which of David's traits do his words reveal?

**5. Who are the protagonist and the antagonist? Why does the antagonist qualify as a villain?**

And David put them off him. And he took his staff in his hand and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip<sup>17</sup>; and his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine. And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David, and the man that bare the shield went before him. And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

And the Philistine said unto David, "Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves<sup>18</sup>?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air and to the beasts of the field." ❏

Then said David to the Philistine, "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee and take thine head from thee, and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear, for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands." ❏

And it came to pass when the Philistine arose and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hastened and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag and took thence a stone and slang it and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone and smote the Philistine and slew him, but there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David ran and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him and cut off his head therewith.

And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled. And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines until thou come to the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath and unto Ekron. And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they spoiled their tents. And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armour in his tent. ❏

And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistine, he said unto Abner, the captain of the host, "Abner, whose son is this youth?"

And Abner said, "As thy soul liveth, O king, I cannot tell."

And the king said, "Inquire thou whose son the stripling is."

And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.

And Saul said to him, "Whose son art thou, thou young man?"

And David answered, "I am the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

**6. What motivation for fighting does David's speech reveal?**

**7. How does David's fight with Goliath affect the other Philistines and Israelites?**

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17. *scrip*: (archaic) a small bag

18. *staves*: sticks

# After Reading

## David and Goliath



### THINK & DISCUSS

1. What does Eliab assume is David's motivation for coming to the battle? How does Eliab's accusation contrast with David's real motivation?
2. How does David's reaction to Goliath differ from the reaction of Saul and the other Israelites?
3. Compare and contrast Goliath's words with David's. What do their words reveal about the contrasting sources of their confidence?
4. What is the main conflict and its resolution? Is this conflict external or internal?
5. What is surprising about the conflict's resolution?
6. Label the plot points of this narrative.
7. How do David's words contribute to the climax of the narrative?