

# Create Character Word Clouds



Laura Candler  
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# Character Word Clouds

## Teacher Info

### Lesson Overview

In this lesson, your students will analyze the character traits for a book character, historical figure, or famous person and will use that information to create a word cloud. A word cloud is an artistic arrangement of words of different sizes. The size of each word is related to the number of times it appears in the text used to create the word cloud. See the example on right.



### Video Tutorial

You can view a video tutorial on YouTube that shows exactly how to create a character word cloud. Just click the link on the right or go to: <http://youtu.be/ycwnA6Dy1fg> Note: I recorded this video for teachers; it wasn't designed as a tutorial for students.



### Teaching Suggestions

1. Before the lesson, follow the directions on the next page to create your own word cloud. Be sure to do this at school so you'll know if a website is blocked as well as the exact sequence of steps needed to create a word cloud. View the Video Tutorial shown above if needed.
2. Introduce the activity to your entire class after you have read aloud a selection with a strong character or when you are studying historical figures or other famous people.
3. Show the Character Trait list on page 4 to your students and have them randomly jot down traits that can be used to describe the character to some extent. Ask your students to rate these traits according to how well they describe the character, with 1 representing "not at all" and 10 representing "extremely true."
4. Call on 8 different students one at a time and ask them to volunteer one trait along with the rating they gave it. Ask them to justify their rating by citing details from the selection.
5. Next, demonstrate how to use those 8 words to create a word cloud using the word processing software and website of your choice. Explain how to print and/or save the image.
6. Finally, ask students to create their own word clouds using traits that describe book characters or famous people. To add a writing component or use this for assessment, ask students to write a paragraph justifying their character trait choices and why they rated them as they did.

**Mystery Character Bulletin Board:** Post the word clouds on a bulletin board and write the name of each character on a colorful index card. Have them use pushpins or small dots of Velcro to match each character with its word cloud. Provide an answer key in a pocket to make it self-checking.



For more character lessons and printables, please visit  
Teaching Resources [www.lauracandler.com](http://www.lauracandler.com)  
or Laura Candler's resources on [TeachersPayTeachers.com](http://TeachersPayTeachers.com).

# Create a Character Word Cloud

## What's a Word Cloud?

A word cloud is an artistic arrangement of words of different sizes. The size of each word is related to the number of times it appears in the text used to create the word cloud. Frequent words appear larger than words that are not used as frequently. See the example to the right.



## Part 1 - Complete Character Rating Scale

1. Choose a character for your Character Word Cloud. It could be a fictional character from a book, a historical figure, or even yourself! Write your character's name on the line at the top of the Character Rating Scale.
2. List any 8 character traits below the name of the character. Be sure to choose a variety of traits - some that describe the character very well and some that do not describe the character very well.
3. Rate each character trait from 1 to 10 depending on how well it describes the character. (1 = lowest and 10 = highest) Hint: This activity works best if the scores range between 4 and 10.

## Part 2 - Create Character Word Cloud

1. Use your scores on the rating scale to create a Character Word Cloud for the character. Open a word processing document and type the first character trait. Then copy and paste that word over and over the number of times equal to its score. For example, if you wrote "persistent" and gave it a score of 9, copy and paste the word "persistent" over 9 times. Do the same for the remaining character traits. You'll end up with one long list of words.
2. Visit a word cloud website such as [Wordle.net](http://Wordle.net), [ABCya.com](http://ABCya.com), or [Tagxedo.com](http://Tagxedo.com). Look for the "create" or the "word cloud" link and click it to get started creating your own.
3. Copy and paste your list of words into the text area and check to be sure there are no spelling errors. Click Submit or Go.
4. Play with the color, font, and layout options until the words are arranged in a pleasing manner.
5. Check with your teacher before printing or your word cloud.
6. If you want to save the word cloud as an image to use later, look for the Save option. If you can't find one, you may need to ask your teacher how to capture it with a screen shot and save it as an image.

# Character Clouds

Write the name of a character at the top of the character rating scale box. Then list any 8 character traits on the line below their name. Rate each trait from 1 (low) to 10 (high) according to how well it describes the character.

absent-minded  
adventurous  
ambitious  
argumentative  
belligerent  
bold  
bossy  
brave  
busy  
carefree  
caring  
careless  
cautious  
cheerful  
clumsy  
conceited  
confident  
considerate  
cooperative  
courageous  
cranky  
creative  
curious  
dainty  
daring  
dedicated  
defiant  
demanding  
determined  
devious  
disagreeable  
dreamer  
energetic

fighter  
friendly  
fun-loving  
generous  
gentle  
gullible  
handsome  
happy  
hard-working  
helpful  
honest  
humble  
humorous  
imaginative  
impatient  
independent  
intelligent  
inventive  
joyful  
lazy  
leader  
logical  
lovable  
loving  
loyal  
messy  
methodical  
mischievous  
obedient  
observant  
outgoing  
optimistic  
patient

## Character Rating Scale

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

patriotic  
persistent  
pessimistic  
polite  
proud  
quiet  
reckless  
resourceful  
respectful  
rude  
selfish  
serious  
shy  
sly  
stubborn  
studious  
successful  
suspicious  
thoughtful  
timid  
unruly  
unselfish  
witty