

2 Character Corners

This discussion activity requires students to critically think about ordinary or extraordinary people, adding interest to the classroom by including multiple perspectives of men, women, and children from historical or current events. Students also have an opportunity to share their insights and comments with other students.

Instructions:

1. Place placards in the corners and/or walls of the room, each with the name of a different character being studied. For example, after studying the Civil War, you might use the characters Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, Clare Barton, a Southern Black, a soldier from Andersonville Prison, and a Confederate Soldier.
2. Choose a question or topic for students to respond to.
 - Which character would you like to meet with and why?
 - What questions would you like to ask this character?
 - How would this character describe the (topic)?
3. Have students write responses and then move to the appropriate placard for the character they addressed.
4. Have students discuss their responses with the other students who addressed the same character.
5. Choose a student in each group to record ideas from the discussion and later to share these with the entire class.
6. Allow students to share and discuss their written responses.
7. Have each group recorder share out and then facilitate a whole class discussion by challenging some of their responses or asking follow up questions.