Characterization is the process by which the author develops the personality of a character in a work of literature. Characterization can be direct, when the author specifically states what the character is like, or indirect, when the author uses things like appearance, thoughts, effects on others, or speech to indicate the character’s personality.

During the first week of school, you will be drafting a five-paragraph essay in class about the characterization of one character from Wonder. The essay should focus on three personality traits of the character and how the author develops those personality traits. Traits are not things like tall, but things like kind, intelligent, cruel, etc. You should have detailed examples to support each of your traits.

On the first day of school, please bring with you a detailed outline for a five-paragraph essay on this topic. This outline should NOT be a rough draft; it does not need to be written in complete sentences. It should, however, provide clarity on the structure of your essay and the details you will use to complete your essay. A good format to use is the following:
I. Intro. Paragraph
• Author, title of book
• Character name
• Three traits
• Thesis
II. Body Paragraph 1
• Explain first trait
• Example of time trait shown
• Example of time trait shown
• Example of time trait shown
III. Body Paragraph 2
• Explain second trait
• Example of time trait shown
• Example of time trait shown
• Example of time trait shown
IV. Body Paragraph 3
• Explain third trait
• Example of time trait shown
• Example of time trait shown
• Example of time trait shown
V. Conclusion
• Restate thesis
• Restate three traits
• Leave the reader with something learned!

Please feel free to email me any questions you might have over the summer (akier@northcross.org).