**Writing Character Analyses**

**Write the Lead Sentence**

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| Name: |  | Date: |  |

Try out at least two of these strategies for introducing the topic of your analysis. Read the examples for ideas.

1. Name the work and author and summarize its importance.

*Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton unflinchingly portrays the deep societal divisions in 1948 South Africa, divisions that would lead to apartheid.

2. Ask a compelling question about the work.

Why do most people consider *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald to be the quintessential "Great American Novel?"

3. Provide a powerful quotation from the author.

“Show me a hero and I’ll write you a tragedy.”

—F. Scott Fitzgerald

4. Share a historical reference that provides a context for the work.

Nelson Mandela spent his youth as a political dissident, his middle age as a political prisoner, and his old age as president of a post-apartheid South Africa.