

# BAD CHARACTERS

*Jean Stafford*



**Text Opener**

**BAD CHARACTERS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do people sometimes have tantrums? Circle what you think is the most common reason. If you think of a different reason, write it down.



They want to make others feel sorry or guilty.

They are frustrated and need to let off steam.

It's the only way they can get what they want.

They have bad tempers and can't control themselves.

Another reason: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





**Directed Notes**

**BAD CHARACTERS**

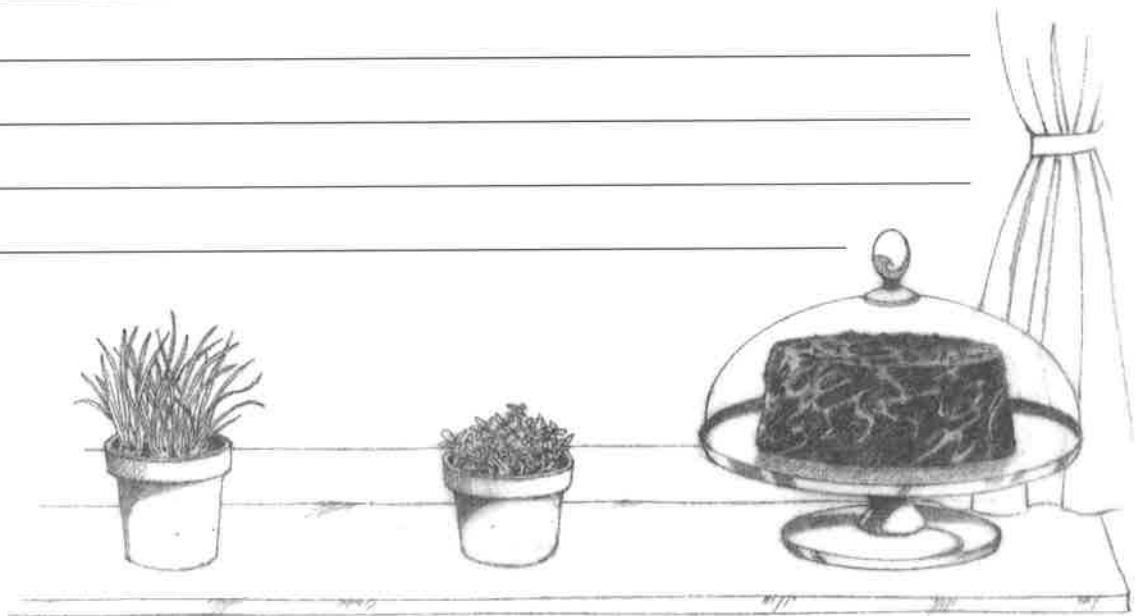
**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

During your second reading of the story, you marked places where Emily is **pleased** with her friendship with Lottie, and places where she is **troubled** by her friendship with Lottie.

Now look over your notes and write down your own interpretive question and an answer. If you can think of a second answer to your question, write that down, too.

Interpretive question: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emily thinks that both she and Lottie are “bad **characters**.”

**character**

- \* someone with an interesting or unusual personality
- \* the inner nature of a person, including his or her moral values

What do you think is most **interesting or unusual** about **Lottie**?

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What do you think is most **interesting or unusual** about **Emily**?

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What do you think is most “bad” about **Lottie’s character**?

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What do you think is most “bad” about **Emily’s character**?

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Now answer this interpretive question:

**Why is Emily convinced that she has a bad character?**

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Make notes for a story about a person who fascinates you but who has the potential to get you into trouble.

**What things about this person fascinate you?**

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**What things about this person bother you?**

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**Your Story Idea**

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**What do you learn from your experience with this person?**

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**Why do you (or don't you) end up being friends?**

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Make notes for an essay that answers this question:

**Do you think of Lottie as a criminal, or as a child who steals only because of the way she grew up?**

What is your definition of a "criminal"?

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What things about Lottie's life make it hard for her to follow all of society's rules?

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**Your Opinion**

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Do you agree with Judge Bay that the child who steals is on the way toward becoming a bank robber?

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Could Lottie use her "genius" to change for the good?

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