INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION
GETTING TO KNOW YOU…

What is the best way to get to know a new person?

Ask him directly what he is like?

OR

Observe him in a variety of settings and observe what he is like?
OBSERVE CAREFULLY!

Literary fiction (the kind we study in school) deals with characters who are composed of both good and evil impulses and gives us an exciting opportunity to observe human nature in all its complexity.

We can actually get to know characters in literature even better than we can get to know people in real life because they are easier to observe.
Observing characters is easier than observing ordinary people because…

… literary characters are always seen in significant moments of their lives.

… through the eyes of a narrator, we can view a character’s inner life in a way that’s impossible in ordinary life.
GETTING TO KNOW CHARACTERS:

Direct

I'm scared

Indirect

Shoes
**Direct**

- Characters are DESCRIBED
- Has little emotional impact
- Good writers rarely use it

**Indirect**

- Characters are SHOWN
- More believable
- Good writers rely on it
FINDING INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION

- Speech
- Thoughts
- Effect on others
- Actions
- Looks
WHY INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION?

We tend to remember believable characters much longer than we can remember the details of the plot.