

Name: _____

Analyzing characters

A **character** is a person or animal in a story. To help readers understand a character better, a story often gives details about the character.

The Strangest Caller

Three beggars called punctually every day at the **hospitable** houses in Miguel Street. At about ten an Indian came in his dhoti and white jacket, and we poured a tin of rice into the sack he carried on his back. At twelve an old woman smoking a clay pipe came and got a cent. At two a blind man led by a boy called for his penny.

Sometimes we had a **rogue**. One day a man called and said he was hungry. We gave him a meal. He asked for a cigarette and wouldn't go until we had lit it for him. That man never came again.

The strangest caller came one afternoon at about four o'clock. I had come back from school and was in my home clothes. The man said to me, "Sonny, may I come inside your yard?" He was a small man and he was tidily dressed. He wore a hat, a white shirt and black trousers.

I asked, "What you want?"

He said, "I want to watch your bees."

We had four small gur-gur palm trees and they were full of uninvited bees. I ran up the steps and shouted, "Ma, it have a man outside here. He say he want to watch the bees." His English was so good, it didn't sound natural, and I could see my mother was worried. She said to me, "Stay here, and watch him while he watch the bees."

The man said, "Thank you, Madam. You have done a good deed today."

(Abstract: "B. Wordsworth" by V.S. Naipaul)

In your notebooks write the answers for the following questions:

1. Who were the callers at the house at Miguel Street?
2. Why did the boy consider the man the strangest caller?
3. Why was the mother worried about the stranger?
4. What made the man strange in the story?
5. Find the meaning of the words: rogue and hospitable. Write sentences with each.