Character Analysis

Name: _____

Date: _____

Active characters move the story along by consciously and deliberately making changes to their surroundings. Passive characters do the opposite: they are simply affected by the changes going on around them. Some characters are active in some ways and passive in others, or change from one to the other as the story progresses.

1. Fill in the table for each character. Tick **Active**, **Passive** or both, and give evidence from the story.



THE KING

☐ Active
☐ Passive

Relationship to other characters

Physical description

Personality

Evidence from the story



HOP-FROG

☐ Active
☐ Passive

Relationship to other characters

Physical description

Personality

Evidence from the story



TRIPPETTA

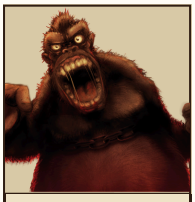
☐ Active
☐ Passive

Relationship to other characters

Physical description

Personality

Evidence from the story



THE SEVEN MINISTERS

☐ Active
☐ Passive

Relationship to other characters

Physical description

Personality

Evidence from the story

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Matching exercise

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Match each phrase from the story with an image. Draw a line to join them.

1	*When the two little friends obeyed the summons of the king they found him sitting at his wine with the seven members of his cabinet council; but the monarch appeared to be in a very ill humour.*	A	
2	*"Endeavouring!" cried the tyrant, fiercely: "what do you mean by that? Ah, I perceive. You are Sulky, and want more wine."*	B	
3	*A flambeau, emitting sweet odour, was placed in the right hand of each of the Caryatides that stood against the wall – some fifty or sixty altogether.*	C	
4	*When the chain flew violently up for about thirty feet – dragging with it the dismayed and struggling ourang-outangs, and leaving them suspended in mid-air between the sky-light and the floor.*	D	
5	*In less than half a minute the whole eight ourang-outangs were blazing fiercely, amid the shrieks of the multitude who gazed at them from below, horror-stricken, and without the power to render them the slightest assistance.*	E	
6	*"As for myself, I am simply Hop-Frog, the jester – and this is my last jest."*	F	

Glossary

Name: _____

Date: _____

Corpulent: (adj) fat

Inimitable: (adj) so good or unusual that it's impossible to copy

Rara avis in terris: (phrase) Latin for a rare bird on earth

Rabelais: (person) a French satirist

Voltaire: (person) a French writer

Profess: (v) to claim to have

Jester: (n) a professional joker at a medieval court

Motley: (adj) mismatched in appearance

Folly: (n) lack of good sense

Self-gratulation: (n) the act of congratulating yourself

Triplicate: (adj) existing in three copies or examples

Interjectional: (adj) abrupt, interrupting

Protuberance: (n) a thing that protrudes from something else

Constitutional: (adj) relating to someone's nature

Prodigious: (adj) remarkable or impressive

Dexterity: (n) skill

Masquerade: (n) a masked ball

Pageants: (n) public entertainment with a procession of people in costume

Éclat: (n) brilliant display or effect

Bumper: (n) a glassful of alcoholic drink

Endeavour: (v) try hard to achieve something

Goblet: (n) a drinking glass

Fiends: (n) evil spirits or demons

Audacity: (n) rude or disrespectful behaviour

Becomingly: (adv) in a manner that suits a person or occasion

Ejaculated: (v) said something quickly and suddenly

Whetting: (v) sharpening

Vagabond: (n) a wanderer with no home

Hereupon: (adv) at this point, immediately after this

Frolic: (n) a playful and lively activity

Habited: (adj) dressed

Epoch: (n) a particular period of time

Ocular: (adj) related to the eyes

Diameter: (n) a straight line passing through the centre of a circle

Superintendence: (n) responsibility

Sconce: (n) a candle holder

Flambeau: (n) a flaming torch

Caryatides: (n) stone carvings of draped female figures

Swoon: (v) faint

Expiate: (v) make amends for

Countenance: (n) face

Scruple: (v) hesitate or be reluctant to do something

Abet: (v) encourage or assist

BEFORE YOU READ

Is a joke still funny if someone is hurt by it? Where does humour end and cruelty begin?

Think of a time when someone was treated unfairly and could not fight back. How could they have got justice?

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

Please choose the best option for each of the following questions.

1. What has the narrator never quite been able to determine?

(a) Whether the king liked him

(b) Whether the king really liked jokes at all

(c) Whether joking produces fatness, or vice versa

(d) Whether he could make it as a court jester

2. What kind of jokes does the narrator say that the king prefers?

(a) Verbal jokes

(b) Practical jokes

(c) Knock-knock jokes

(d) The king hates jokes

3. Who does the narrator believe gave the king's jester the name "Hop-Frog"?

(a) His sponsors at baptism

(b) His mother

(c) The several ministers

(d) Hop-Frog himself

4. How did Hop-Frog end up in the king's court?

(a) He came looking to make his fortune

(b) He was taken from his home by force, by one of the king's generals

(c) He followed his best friend, Trippetta

(d) He got lost in the woods and was discovered by the king

5. On the night of the masquerade, who is still struggling to decide on their costumes?

(a) Everyone in the court

(b) The narrator

(c) Hop-Frog and Trippetta

(d) The king and his ministers

6. Why doesn't Hop-Frog like wine?

(a) It excites him almost to madness

(b) He used to be an alcoholic

(c) He hates the taste

(d) He was once attacked by a wine-merchant

7. What else is special about the day of the masquerade?

(a) It is the king's birthday

(b) It is the anniversary of Hop-Frog's arrival at court

(c) It is the full moon

(d) It is Hop-Frog's birthday

8. What does Trippetta do when the king asks Hop-Frog to drink a second time?

(a) Laughs along with the seven ministers

(b) Grabs the goblet and drains it herself

(c) Begs him to spare Hop-Frog

(d) Turns and flees from the hall

9. What does one of the king's courtiers suggest the harsh grating sound may be?

(a) Hop-Frog

(b) The king's rumbling stomach

(c) Ghosts and ghouls

(d) A parrot sharpening his beak on his cage

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

10. What is the name of the capital diversion Hop-Frog suggests to the king and his courtiers?

(a) The Eight Chained Ourang-Outangs
(b) The Five Famous Lions
(c) The Eleven Enormous Elephants
(d) The Seven Angry Purple Hippos

11. What shape is the grand saloon where the masquerade ball is to be held?

(a) Circular
(b) Triangular
(c) Square
(d) Pentagonal

12. What does Trippetta change about the room, on Hop-Frog's advice?

(a) Hangs eight dark curtains on the walls
(b) Removes the chandelier
(c) Locks every door but one
(d) Removes all the chairs

13. What has the king banned from the party?

(a) Weapons
(b) Other animal costumes
(c) Jesters
(d) Laughter

14. What does Hop-Frog do when the king and his ministers reach the centre of the room?

(a) Drops the chandelier on top of them
(b) Hides under a table
(c) Hooks the centre of their chains to the chandelier-chain
(d) Runs to find Trippetta

15. What does Hop-Frog shout as he scrambles over to the ourang-outangs?

(a) That he will kill the violent beasts
(b) That the party is over
(c) That he loves Trippetta
(d) That he thinks he knows who they are

16. Where does the second low, harsh, grating sound undoubtedly come from?

(a) The chandelier-chain
(b) A parrot whetting its beak
(c) Hop-Frog's teeth
(d) The doors opening

17. What does Hop-Frog do to the king?

(a) Releases him from his chains
(b) Makes him drain ten goblets of wine
(c) Sets fire to his costume
(d) Cuts his throat

18. How long does it take for all eight of the ourang-outangs to be blazing fiercely?

(a) Less than half a minute
(b) Eight long minutes
(c) A split second
(d) All night

19. What happens to Hop-Frog and Trippetta at the end of the story?

(a) They are never seen again
(b) They are caught and thrown into the darkest dungeon
(c) They die along with the other guests in a huge fire
(d) They are crowned king and queen of the land

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

If you read it in the iClassics app

Answer these extra questions about what you discover as you read:

1. What happens when you tap the image of Trippetta imploring the king to spare Hop-Frog?

2. What happens when you tap Hop-Frog as he dangles on the chandelier-chain?

Think like a detective

Name: _____

Date: _____

Answer in full sentences. Support your ideas with evidence from the text.

1. The king and his ministers mock Hop-Frog and Trippetta. Is Hop-Frog's revenge justified? Does Poe want us to sympathise with him, or to be disturbed by him?

2. Hop-Frog is described as a "cripple" and a "dwarf" and is treated as an object of amusement. What does the story suggest about power, humiliation and revenge?

3. Poe uses humour, costume and disguise throughout. How does the masquerade make the ending both ridiculous and horrifying?

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Writing

Name: _____

Date: _____

At the end of the story, Hop-Frog clambers out of the skylight, never to be seen again. It is supposed that Trippetta helped him and they escaped together. Write a short continuation of the story (1–2 pages) explaining what really happened to Hop-Frog and Trippetta. Include:

a. Hop-Frog and Trippetta discussing what has just happened and why they did it.

b. Hop-Frog and Trippetta deciding where to go next (their home country, or somewhere else if you prefer).

c. Hop-Frog and Trippetta leaving the city and setting off on their journey. Include at least one difficulty they meet, and explain how they overcome it (if they do).



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