**Character Sketch Format**

**Task**: Write a character sketch in which you describe a character from one of the stories we have read. Follow the basic paragraph structure below to complete this task.

Sentence 1: Begin with a topic sentence that introduces the character’s name, the title of the story, the author’s name and the character’s traits.

Ex. *In “Choices,” by Susan Kerslake, the protagonist, Peggy, is a young woman whose personality may have both contributed to and helped her to survive a terrible accident.*

Sentence 2: Introduce the first character trait/ point you want to discuss.

Ex. *At the beginning of the story, the author portrays Peggy as somewhat irresponsible.*

Sentence 3: A quotation/evidence from the story that proves the character trait, smoothly integrated into your own sentence.

Ex. *For example, before Peggy leaves on the car trip with Ken, she makes the conscious decision to leave “laundry, a couple of dishes, unanswered letters, unpaid bills…” and feels good about doing this.*

Sentence 4: An explanation of how this quotation proves that the character possesses this trait. In other words, explain how the quotation proves the point you are trying to make.

Ex. *Her ability to walk away from these domestic duties so easily shows that she lacks responsibility.*

Sentence 5: Beginning with a transition, introduce another character trait/ point.

Ex. *Another trait Peggy possesses is courage.*

Sentence 6: Quotation/ Evidence

Sentence 7: Explanation of the quote

Sentence 8: Transition into one more trait

Sentence 9: Quotation

Sentence 10: Explanation

Sentence 11: Concluding sentence that briefly summarizes the traits that you’ve discussed and makes a final conclusion about the character; perhaps relating to theme, character type, motivation, etc.

Ex. *As a result of Peggy’s accident, she goes from being irresponsible to being courageous and finally independent as she realizes that Ken will not be around to help her through this experience. (Or… The reader senses that Peggy has been profoundly changed by her experience and that she will never again take choices lightly.)*