“A Handful of Dates” – pg. 123

**Implicit and Explicit Characterization**

Record what we are implicitly and explicitly told about each character in the chart below. Use direct quotations for each character trait. For the implicit traits, indicate what the quotation shows us as well.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Character** | **Implicit Character Traits**  (things they do or are said about the character) | | **Explicit Character Traits**  (things we are told about the character) |
|  | Quotation: | What it shows us: | Quotation: |
| Narrator |  |  |  |
| Grandfather |  |  |  |
| Masood |  |  |  |

Characterization is especially important when understanding the date harvesting scene. Go back to this scene and analyze what is happening by answering the following questions:

1. Explain what is happening during the date harvesting: Who owns that date trees and why? What do the people of the village do during the harvest (including the grandfather and Masood)?
2. Why is Masood still 50 pounds in debt?
3. What does the narrator’s reaction to this scene tell us?

**Narrative Point of View**

1. How does the narrator’s opinion of his grandfather change from the beginning to the end?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Opinion at the beginning (with evidence from the text) | Opinion at the end (with evidence from the text) | Why has it changed? |
|  |  |  |

1. How does the point of view from which the story is told impact our understanding of the story? (Consider the narrator’s response to his grandfather at the end of the story.)

**Theme**

Consider your answers to the questions above: what is the theme of this story? Support your answer with 3 quotations from the text.