

Name _____

Date _____

Analyze Characters' Motivations

Characters in a literary work, like real people, have motivations, or reasons for their actions. A character can be motivated by a variety of factors: by a goal, by loyalty to a group or cause, or by an emotion such as love, anger, or jealousy. A complex character is one who is driven by multiple, and sometimes conflicting, motivations at the same time.

Read the following short story excerpt and answer the questions.

The Last Art Show

Sophia stood at the entrance of the gallery, her paintings still in the car. After ten years of rejection letters, this was finally her chance—the prestigious Wilson Gallery had offered her a solo exhibition. Yet she couldn't bring herself to carry the canvases inside.

"You've been standing there for fifteen minutes," said Marco, the gallery owner. "The show opens tomorrow."

"I'm not sure I can do this," Sophia replied, her voice barely audible. She thought about her father, who had always told her that pursuing art was a waste of time. Now critically ill, he still refused to acknowledge her work. Marco sighed. "Is this about your father again? You earned this spot, Sophia. Your work deserves to be seen." Sophia glanced at her phone—three missed calls from the hospital. Her father might not have much time left. She

Name _____

Date _____

Analyze Characters' Motivations

should be there, not here.

"My family needs me," she said, reaching for her car keys.

"Wait," Marco called. "What if we delay until next week? Your father might still—"

"No," Sophia interrupted. "I need to make a choice." She stared at the gallery, then at her phone. After a moment, she walked to her car, but instead of driving away, she began unloading her paintings.

"I thought you were leaving," Marco said, confused.

"I'm staying," Sophia replied. "My father made his choices. These paintings are who I am. Whether he ever understands that or not, I can't keep waiting for his approval."

1. What internal conflict does Sophia face?

2. What causes Sophia to change her mind and stay at the gallery?

3. What is Sophia's main motivation at the beginning of the story?

Name _____

Date _____

Analyze Characters' Motivations-**Answer Key**

1. What internal conflict does Sophia face?

She's torn between pursuing her art career and being with her critically ill father who never supported her passion.

2. What causes Sophia to change her mind and stay at the gallery?

She realizes she needs to make her own choice and stop seeking her father's approval.

3. What is Sophia's main motivation at the beginning of the story?

To gain recognition for her art after years of rejection.