

Understanding Characters

Read lines 1-22 of 'The Knock at the Door' and fill in the character map below.

Fill in the **basic facts** about the main character:

1. Name: Joey Carter
2. Age: 13 years old
3. Gender: M/ F

Read lines 1-9 and write three more **facts** about the main character's **situation**:

1. He lives with his mother.
2. He hasn't seen his father for a long time.
3. The house was built by his grandparents.

What does the picture tell us about the main character's **appearance** or **mood**?

1. He is thin/has straight hair/big eyes/poor posture.
2. He looks sad/unhappy/lonely/bored/tired.



What do the following lines tell us about the main character's **personality**?

lines 7-9: He is hopeful/superstitious/self-conscious.

line 21: He is shy/timid/obedient.

Describe the main character's relationship with his parents. How about his parents' relationship with each other? Identify clues from the text to support your answers.

1. Relationship with mother: They don't communicate very well.
 Clues: Joey doesn't ask about his father. (line 5)/
Joey doesn't tell his mother what he thinks - she might think he's silly. (line 9)
2. Relationship with father: Joey misses his father and wants him to come back.
 Clues: Joey hears his father saying 'Goodnight, Joey. I love you.' (line 3)/
Joey secretly hopes his father will return. (lines 5-6)
3. Relationship between mother and father: It's probably not very good.
 Clues: Joey's mother never talks about his father and there are no photos of him in the house. (lines 4-5)