INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION GAME Online PDF

Understanding the Indirect Characterization Game

Indirect characterization game is an engaging and educational activity designed to enhance students' understanding of how authors reveal details about characters in literature without explicitly stating them. Unlike direct characterization, where authors directly describe a character's traits, indirect characterization involves inferring qualities through a character's actions, dialogue, interactions, and the environment. The game transforms this analytical process into an interactive experience, encouraging participants to interpret subtle clues and develop critical thinking skills. This approach not only deepens comprehension of literary techniques but also fosters creativity and collaboration among players.

Origins and Purpose of the Indirect Characterization Game

Historical Context

The concept of indirect characterization has long been a fundamental aspect of literary analysis. Writers like William Shakespeare, Jane Austen, and Charles Dickens masterfully used indirect methods to craft memorable characters. Recognizing the significance of these techniques, educators devised interactive activities to help students grasp the nuanced process of character development.

Educational Goals

- Enhance understanding of literary techniques
- Develop critical thinking and inference skills
- Encourage active participation and engagement with texts
- Foster collaborative learning and discussion

How to Play the Indirect Characterization Game

Preparation Phase

- **Select a text or character:** Teachers choose a literary work or specific character to focus on.

- **Gather clues:** Prepare a set of indirect clues related to the character, such as quotes, actions, or scenarios.
- **Divide participants into teams:** Groups work together to interpret clues and deduce character traits.

Gameplay Mechanics

The core of the game involves presenting participants with indirect clues and challenging them to analyze and interpret these hints to construct a comprehensive character profile.

Step-by-Step Process

- **Presentation of Clues:** The game facilitator provides a series of indirect clues about the character. These clues can be in the form of:

- Quotes from the text that reveal behavior or thoughts
- Descriptions of actions or reactions in specific situations
- Details about interactions with other characters
- Contextual information or environmental descriptions

- **Discussion and Analysis:** Teams discuss the clues, infer traits, and support their conclusions with evidence.
- **Presentation of Hypotheses:** Each team presents their profile of the character, outlining the traits they deduced and the textual evidence supporting their analysis.
- **Debrief and Feedback:** The facilitator provides feedback, clarifies misconceptions, and highlights effective inference techniques.

Strategies for Effective Indirect Characterization Analysis

Key Skills Developed

- **Inference:** Drawing logical conclusions from subtle details
- **Textual Evidence Collection:** Identifying relevant quotes and descriptions
- **Critical Thinking:** Analyzing actions and dialogue to uncover underlying traits
- **Collaborative Reasoning:** Discussing and debating interpretations within teams

Tips for Participants

- Pay attention to how characters speak and behave in different situations
- Look for patterns or recurring behaviors that reveal personality traits
- Consider context and environment when interpreting actions
- Support each inference with direct evidence from the text

Examples of Clues Used in the Game

Quotes and Dialogue

For example, a character who says, ?I prefer to work alone; I find it easier to concentrate,? may be inferred as independent or introverted.

Actions and Reactions

- Helping a neighbor in need suggests kindness or altruism.
- Refusing to apologize after causing harm might imply stubbornness or pride.

Interactions with Other Characters

- Consistently defending a friend during disputes indicates loyalty.
- Ignoring or dismissing others? opinions could suggest arrogance or aloofness.

Environmental and Situational Details

- Living in a cluttered space might reflect disorganization or chaos in the character?s life.
- Expressing frustration over societal norms may hint at rebelliousness or dissatisfaction.

Benefits of Using the Indirect Characterization Game in Education

Enhanced Literary Comprehension

The game encourages students to read closely and interpret meaning beyond the surface. It deepens their understanding of how authors subtly reveal character traits through various techniques, enriching their appreciation of literature.

Development of Critical Thinking Skills

By analyzing clues and supporting their deductions with textual evidence, students sharpen their

inference capabilities. This analytical skill is transferable to other domains, including history, science, and everyday decision-making.

Promotion of Engagement and Collaboration

Working in teams fosters communication, respectful debate, and collective reasoning. The interactive nature of the game makes learning lively and memorable.

Application to Broader Literary Analysis

Mastering indirect characterization equips students to analyze complex texts, identify nuanced character development, and appreciate authors? craft in constructing compelling narratives.

Adaptations and Variations of the Game

Adjusting Difficulty Levels

- Use simpler clues for younger or less experienced students
- Introduce more complex or ambiguous clues for advanced learners

Incorporating Different Media

- Use film or theater scenes for visual clues
- Include audio recordings or podcasts featuring character dialogues

Theme-Based Variations

- Focus on specific themes like morality, ambition, or loyalty
- Use characters from different genres or time periods to diversify analysis

Conclusion: The Value of the Indirect Characterization Game

The **indirect characterization game** is more than just an educational activity; it is a dynamic tool that cultivates analytical thinking, interpretative skills, and a deeper appreciation for literature. By transforming the often abstract process of understanding character development into an interactive and collaborative experience, educators can inspire students to become more attentive readers and critical thinkers. As they decipher subtle clues and construct nuanced character profiles, learners gain insights not only into literary techniques but also into human nature itself. Whether used in

classroom settings, reading clubs, or literary workshops, the indirect characterization game remains a valuable approach to exploring the rich complexity of characters in storytelling.

Indirect Characterization Game: An Innovative Approach to Understanding Characters

In the realm of storytelling and game design, indirect characterization game stands out as an innovative and engaging method to delve into the depths of character development. Unlike traditional characterization techniques that rely on explicit descriptions or direct narration, these games challenge players to uncover personality traits, motives, and backgrounds through subtle clues, interactions, and environmental cues. This approach not only enhances player engagement but also fosters critical thinking and empathy, making it a compelling tool for educators, writers, and game developers alike.

What is an Indirect Characterization Game?

An indirect characterization game is a gameplay mechanic or genre that emphasizes revealing characters' personalities through players' exploration, decision-making, and interpretation rather than straightforward exposition. Players are placed in scenarios where they observe behaviors, dialogue, and contextual clues to infer traits, relationships, and histories of in-game characters.

Core Principles

- Subtlety and Nuance: Information about characters is embedded within gameplay, requiring players to interpret clues rather than receive direct descriptions.
- Player Agency: Players influence and explore character development through choices, dialogue options, and interactions.
- Environmental Storytelling: Settings, items, and background details are used to hint at characters? pasts and personalities.

Examples in Popular Media

- The Walking Dead (Telltale Games): Players? choices influence character relationships and reveal underlying motives.
- Life Is Strange: Player decisions shape character development and uncover hidden aspects of personalities.
- Disco Elysium: Dialogue and internal monologues serve as indirect means to understand the protagonist's psyche.

Mechanics of Indirect Characterization in Games

The effectiveness of an indirect characterization game hinges on its mechanics, which are designed to subtly communicate traits and backgrounds.

Dialogue Choices

Dialogue systems are pivotal. Instead of explicitly stating a character?s traits, players select responses that reveal their personality or moral compass. For example, choosing to be empathetic or confrontational shapes perceptions and relationships.

Environmental Clues

Settings, background items, and visual cues serve as storytelling devices. Personal belongings, notes, or environmental decay can hint at past experiences or mental states.

Non-Player Character (NPC) Interactions

Interactions with NPCs often involve layered conversations, where tone, timing, and choice of words provide insights into the character?s motives and personality.

Player Actions and Decisions

Decisions made during gameplay can indicate underlying traits, such as generosity, impulsiveness, or secrecy. The cumulative effect of these choices paints a complex picture of the character.

Advantages of Using Indirect Characterization in Games

Implementing indirect characterization offers numerous benefits, enriching both gameplay and storytelling.

Enhances Player Engagement

- Players actively interpret clues, making the experience immersive.
- Encourages exploration and curiosity about characters.

Promotes Critical Thinking

- Players analyze environmental details and dialogue to infer traits.
- Fosters analytical skills and attention to detail.

Deepens Emotional Connection

- Discovering traits gradually builds empathy and understanding.
- Players relate more intimately to characters through discovery.

Supports Complex Character Development

- Allows for nuanced and layered characters that evolve over time.
- Reflects real-world personality complexities better than flat descriptions.

Educational Potential

- Useful in teaching literary analysis and storytelling techniques.
- Helps students appreciate subtlety in character portrayal.

Challenges and Limitations

Despite its strengths, the indirect characterization approach has some drawbacks.

Ambiguity and Player Frustration

- Clues can sometimes be too subtle or ambiguous, leading to confusion.
- Players may misinterpret traits, resulting in inconsistent perceptions.

Design Complexity

- Creating balanced gameplay that effectively conveys traits without explicit narration is challenging.
- Requires careful planning to ensure clues are meaningful and accessible.

Replayability Concerns

- If clues are too obvious or too obscure, players may lose interest or feel their choices are inconsequential.
- Achieving meaningful variation across playthroughs demands intricate design.

Not Suitable for All Audiences

- Some players prefer straightforward storytelling and may find indirect methods frustrating.
- Accessibility considerations are necessary to accommodate diverse players.

Features of Successful Indirect Characterization Games

Certain features are common among well-designed games that utilize indirect characterization effectively.

- Layered Clues: Multiple, interwoven hints that encourage deep analysis.
- Dynamic Relationships: Changes in character interactions based on player choices.
- Rich Environments: Detailed settings that provide context and background.
- Moral and Ethical Dilemmas: Situations that reveal character values and priorities.
- Open-Ended Outcomes: Multiple endings or character arcs to reflect diverse interpretations.

Case Studies of Notable Indirect Characterization Games

Disco Elysium

An acclaimed role-playing game where players explore a detective?s psyche through internal dialogues, environmental storytelling, and choices. The game?s strength lies in its subtle approach?players piece together the protagonist?s past and personality through nuanced interactions and internal monologues.

Night in the Woods

This adventure game uses environmental storytelling, dialogue, and player choices to reveal the complex backgrounds and mental health struggles of its characters. The game?s tone and setting serve as indirect cues to deepen understanding.

Firewatch

A narrative-driven game focusing on the relationship between a fire lookout and his supervisor. Much of the character development occurs through dialogue and environmental hints, creating a sense of intimacy and mystery.

Future Directions in Indirect Characterization Games

As technology advances, so does the potential for more sophisticated indirect characterization methods:

- AI-Driven Narrative: Using artificial intelligence to adapt clues and character development dynamically based on player behavior.
- Virtual Reality (VR): Immersive environments that allow players to experience character backgrounds firsthand.
- Procedural Storytelling: Generating unique character traits and histories for each playthrough to enhance replayability and personalization.

Conclusion

The indirect characterization game represents a significant shift towards more nuanced, immersive storytelling in interactive media. By prompting players to interpret clues, environmental cues, and dialogue, these games foster deeper engagement, critical thinking, and emotional connection. While challenges remain in balancing subtlety with clarity, successful implementations have demonstrated the profound potential of this approach. As technology evolves, indirect characterization games are poised to become even more sophisticated, offering richer, more personalized narratives that mirror the complexities of human personalities. Whether for entertainment, education, or artistic expression, this genre continues to push the boundaries of storytelling and gameplay, inviting players to become active participants in the art of character revelation.

QuestionAnswer What is an indirect characterization game? An indirect characterization game is an activity or exercise designed to help players learn how authors reveal a character's personality through hints, actions, dialogue, and thoughts rather than direct description. How can playing an indirect characterization game improve reading comprehension? It encourages players to analyze text closely, interpret clues about characters, and understand how authors develop characters subtly, thereby enhancing overall comprehension skills. What are some common formats for an indirect characterization game? Common formats include role-playing scenarios, guessing games where players infer traits from clues, and interactive quizzes that ask players to identify character traits based on given actions or dialogue. How do you set up an effective indirect characterization game for a classroom? Start by selecting passages with rich, subtle character details, prepare prompts or clues, divide students into groups, and have them analyze and discuss the character traits based on the indirect evidence presented. What are the benefits of using indirect characterization games in literacy education? They promote critical thinking, close reading, inference skills, and a deeper understanding of how authors craft complex characters without explicit descriptions. Can indirect characterization games be adapted for different age groups? Yes, they can be tailored by adjusting the complexity of texts and clues, making them suitable for elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as adult learners. What are some popular tools or resources to facilitate an indirect characterization game? Teachers can use interactive slides, digital

quizzes, role-playing scenarios, or printable worksheets that provide snippets of text for students to analyze and infer character traits.

Related keywords: character development, storytelling, narrative techniques, player choice, game design, character traits, plot development, interactive storytelling, character immersion, gameplay mechanics

short stories teaching characterization middle school

Short Stories Teaching Characterization Middle School: Engaging Strategies for Educators

When it comes to teaching middle school students about characterization, educators often seek engaging and effective methods to make the concept come alive. **Short stories teaching characterization middle school** provide an excellent platform for students to analyze how authors develop characters and understand the traits, motivations, and changes that shape a story?s characters. These stories serve as accessible, manageable texts that can be dissected in class discussions, activities, and assignments, fostering a deeper appreciation for literary analysis while honing critical thinking skills.

Why Use Short Stories for Teaching Characterization?

Short stories are ideal teaching tools for middle school classrooms for several reasons. Their brevity allows students to focus on character development without feeling overwhelmed by lengthy texts. Additionally, short stories often contain clear examples of characterization techniques, making it easier for students to identify and analyze how authors craft memorable, believable characters.

Benefits of Using Short Stories in the Classroom

- **Concise and Focused:** Short stories typically center around a single character or a small cast, providing a clear view of characterization techniques.
- **Accessible Language:** Many short stories are written in language appropriate for middle school readers, facilitating comprehension and engagement.
- **Versatile Teaching Opportunities:** Short stories can be used across different genres and themes, allowing teachers to tailor lessons to curriculum goals.
- **Encourages Critical Thinking:** Analyzing characters in short stories promotes skills like inference, evidence-based reasoning, and thematic understanding.

Top Strategies for Teaching Characterization with Short Stories

Implementing effective strategies ensures that students not only understand characterization but also develop analytical skills. Here are key approaches for using short stories to teach middle school students about characterization.

1. Character Mapping and Graphic Organizers

Using visual tools helps students organize their thoughts about characters? traits, motivations, and changes.

- **Character Traits Chart:** Have students list traits, evidence from the text, and how the traits influence the story.
- **Character Development Timeline:** Students track how a character evolves throughout the story, noting key moments that contribute to change.
- **Comparison Charts:** Encourage students to compare and contrast different characters to understand diverse characterization techniques.

2. Close Reading and Textual Evidence

Encourage students to carefully analyze excerpts to identify how authors reveal characters.

- **Highlighting and Annotating:** Students mark descriptions, dialogue, and actions that reveal character traits.
- **Questioning:** Prompt students to ask questions about characters? motivations or decisions and find evidence in the text.
- **Quote Analysis:** Focus on key quotes that exemplify character traits or development.

3. Character Diaries and Journals

Creative writing assignments deepen understanding by allowing students to explore characters? perspectives.

- **Diary Entries:** Students write from the character?s point of view, exploring their thoughts and feelings.
- **Internal Monologues:** Encourage students to imagine what characters might be thinking during pivotal moments.
- **Reflection Journals:** Have students reflect on how their perceptions of a character change

after analyzing the story.

4. Role-Playing and Drama Activities

Interactive activities enable kinesthetic learners to embody characters and understand their traits more vividly.

- **Hot Seating:** Students take turns answering questions as a character from the story.
- **Scene Reenactments:** Students act out key scenes, emphasizing characterization through dialogue and body language.
- **Character Interviews:** Students prepare interview questions and respond in character, exploring motivations and relationships.

5. Comparing Short Stories

Analyzing multiple stories enhances understanding of different characterization techniques.

- **Thematic Comparisons:** Examine how different authors develop similar character archetypes.
- **Technique Variations:** Contrast stories that reveal characters through dialogue versus action or description.
- **Character Evolution:** Track how characters change across stories with similar themes.

Recommended Short Stories for Middle School Characterization Lessons

Selecting the right stories is crucial for effective teaching. Here are some popular and accessible short stories that exemplify strong characterization suitable for middle school students.

1. ?The Necklace? by Guy de Maupassant

This classic story explores themes of vanity and pride through Madame Loisel?s character. Students analyze her superficiality and eventual humility, observing how Maupassant reveals her personality.

2. ?Thank You, M?am? by Langston Hughes

A compelling story about kindness and redemption, it allows students to analyze the characters? growth and motivations, especially Mrs. Jones? transformation.

3. ?The Monkey?s Paw? by W.W. Jacobs

This story presents characters faced with moral dilemmas, illustrating how fear and greed influence their decisions and personalities.

4. ?The Gift of the Magi? by O. Henry

Through the contrasting characters of Jim and Della, students examine selflessness and love, gaining insights into characterization through actions and dialogue.

5. ?Eleven? by Sandra Cisneros

This story vividly portrays a young girl?s internal emotional state, emphasizing characterization through internal monologue and dialogue.

Assessing Student Understanding of Characterization

Effective assessment strategies help gauge students? grasp of characterization concepts.

1. Character Profile Projects

Students create detailed profiles of characters, including traits, motivations, and changes, often accompanied by evidence from the text.

2. Written Analyses

Assign essays or journal entries analyzing how the author develops a character and what the character reveals about the story?s theme.

3. Group Presentations

Students collaborate to present character analyses, fostering discussion and deeper comprehension.

4. Creative Writing

Encourage students to create their own short stories, applying characterization techniques learned from studied texts.

Conclusion: Making Characterization Engaging and Effective

Using short stories to teach characterization middle school offers a dynamic and accessible approach that fosters both literary analysis skills and an appreciation for storytelling. By

incorporating techniques like character mapping, close reading, creative writing, and dramatic activities, educators can make characterization lessons engaging and meaningful. Selecting stories that exemplify strong characterization ensures that students can observe and analyze diverse techniques, ultimately strengthening their understanding of how authors craft compelling and believable characters. With these strategies, teachers can inspire middle school students to become thoughtful readers and writers, capable of analyzing and creating rich characters in their own stories.

Short stories teaching characterization middle school are a vital resource in middle school language arts classrooms. They serve as an engaging and effective way to introduce students to the complex concept of characterization?how authors develop and portray characters to drive the narrative forward. Short stories are particularly suitable because their concise nature allows students to analyze character traits, motivations, and development without feeling overwhelmed by lengthy texts. When thoughtfully selected, these stories can foster a deeper understanding of characterization, enhance critical thinking skills, and ignite a love for literature among middle school learners.

Understanding the Importance of Short Stories for Teaching Characterization

Teaching characterization through short stories provides several advantages, making them a popular choice among educators. They offer manageable texts that are perfect for classroom discussions, assignments, and assessments. Additionally, short stories often feature vivid characters and clear conflicts, making it easier for students to identify and analyze key traits.

Features of using short stories for characterization lessons:

- Conciseness: Their brevity allows for focused analysis within limited class periods.
- Engagement: Many short stories are captivating and relatable, capturing students? interest.
- Variety: A wide range of genres and themes are available, catering to diverse student preferences.
- Accessibility: Short stories often use straightforward language, suitable for middle school readers.

Pros of using short stories in teaching characterization:

- Facilitates immediate engagement and discussion.
- Supports differentiated instruction by providing texts at various reading levels.
- Enhances students? ability to identify and describe character traits quickly.
- Serves as a foundation for larger literary analysis skills.

Cons or challenges:

- Some stories may be too simplistic or lack depth in characterization.
- Limited scope for complex character development compared to novels.
- Requires careful selection to ensure relevance and appropriateness.

Key Features of Short Stories That Teach Characterization

Understanding what makes a short story effective for teaching characterization is essential for educators. Several features contribute to their educational value:

Vivid and Multi-dimensional Characters

A well-crafted short story introduces characters with distinct traits, motivations, and backgrounds. These characters often undergo some change or reveal aspects of their personality through actions and dialogue.

Clear Character Arcs

While not all short stories feature dramatic character development, many include moments that reveal character growth or insight, helping students understand the concept of change within a story.

Author?s Use of Literary Devices

Effective characterization often relies on literary devices such as direct description, dialogue, inner thoughts, and actions. Recognizing these devices helps students analyze how authors develop characters.

Relatable Themes and Situations

Stories that explore universal themes?such as friendship, perseverance, or identity?make it easier for students to connect with the characters and understand their traits.

Popular Short Stories for Teaching Characterization in Middle School

Choosing the right stories is crucial. Here is a curated list of short stories that exemplify excellent characterization and are suitable for middle school learners.

"Thank You, Ma?am" by Langston Hughes

This story features a protagonist, Roger, and a caring woman, Mrs. Jones, whose interactions reveal themes of trust, empathy, and redemption. Students analyze Mrs. Jones?s nurturing personality and Roger?s growth.

"The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry

A classic tale illustrating love, sacrifice, and the depth of character through the actions of a young couple. Students examine the traits of selflessness and materialism.

"Eleven" by Sandra Cisneros

This story captures the feelings of a young girl, Rachel, as she navigates a confusing experience. It offers insights into her emotional development and self-awareness.

"The Monkey's Paw" by W. W. Jacobs

While more suspenseful, this story demonstrates characters? flaws and moral choices, providing rich analysis opportunities.

"Charles" by Shirley Jackson

A humorous yet insightful story about a young boy and his mischievous behavior, revealing traits of deception and social perception.

Strategies for Teaching Characterization Using Short Stories

To maximize learning, educators should employ specific strategies when using short stories to teach characterization.

Guided Reading and Annotation

Encourage students to annotate texts, highlighting descriptions, dialogue, and actions that reveal character traits. Guided questions can steer analysis.

Character Charts and Graphic Organizers

Use tools like character trait charts to compare and contrast characters, track their development, and organize evidence from the text.

Role-Playing and Dramatization

Having students act out scenes or simulate conversations helps deepen understanding of characters? personalities and motivations.

Creative Assignments

Assignments like writing alternative endings or character diaries allow students to explore characters? inner thoughts and potential growth.

Discussion and Socratic Seminars

Facilitating discussions about characters? decisions and traits encourages critical thinking and diverse perspectives.

Assessment and Evaluation of Understanding

Assessment methods should evaluate students? ability to analyze and interpret characterization.

- Written essays: Analyzing character traits and development.
- Quizzes: Identifying evidence of characterization in selected passages.
- Presentations: Explaining how authors develop characters.
- Creative projects: Reimagining characters or writing backstory narratives.

Challenges and Tips for Educators

While short stories are valuable educational tools, teachers may face challenges such as selecting appropriate texts or ensuring depth of analysis. Tips include:

- Select stories with clear and rich characterization.
- Vary narratives to cover different character types and traits.
- Scaffold lessons to gradually build analysis skills.
- Incorporate multimedia and technology to diversify engagement.
- Encourage student choice to foster ownership of learning.

Conclusion: The Power of Short Stories in Characterization Education

Short stories are an invaluable resource for teaching characterization to middle school students. Their brevity, diversity, and engaging narratives make them ideal for fostering analytical skills and appreciation for literature. When carefully selected and thoughtfully integrated into lessons, short stories can illuminate the nuances of character development, helping students understand that

characters are the heart of storytelling. This foundational skill not only enhances their literary analysis capabilities but also promotes empathy, self-awareness, and critical thinking?skills that are essential beyond the classroom. By leveraging the strengths of short stories, educators can inspire a lifelong interest in literature and storytelling among their middle school students.

QuestionAnswer What are some effective short stories for teaching characterization to middle school students? Stories like 'The Gift of the Magi' by O. Henry, 'Thank You Ma'am' by Langston Hughes, and 'The Monkey's Paw' by W.W. Jacobs are excellent choices to illustrate characterization through memorable characters and plots. How can teachers help middle school students identify characterization in short stories? Teachers can encourage students to analyze characters' actions, dialogue, thoughts, and reactions, and then compare these traits to the story's events to understand how authors develop characters. What activities can enhance understanding of characterization in middle school short stories? Activities like character journals, role-playing, creating character maps, and writing alternative endings help students explore and deepen their understanding of character traits and development. How do short stories facilitate teaching different types of characterization (direct and indirect)? Short stories often use both direct description from the narrator and indirect cues through characters' actions and dialogue, providing clear examples for students to identify and analyze these techniques. What challenges do middle school students face in understanding characterization, and how can teachers address them? Students may struggle to recognize subtle cues or differentiate between traits; teachers can address this by modeling close reading, providing guided questions, and discussing character motives in class. Can short stories be used to teach characterization across different genres for middle school students? Yes, short stories across genres?such as mystery, fantasy, and realistic fiction?offer diverse examples of characterization, helping students see how authors craft characters in various contexts. How do short stories support differentiated instruction in teaching characterization to middle school learners? Short stories allow for varied reading levels and can be paired with visual aids, discussions, and writing activities, making it easier to tailor instruction to diverse learning needs while teaching characterization.

Related keywords: short stories, teaching characterization, middle school, literary analysis, character development, storytelling techniques, classroom activities, reading comprehension, literary elements, student engagement

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