Name:

Character Types Worksheet 1

Directions: Read the short story. Pay close attention to the characters. Respond to the questions that follow.

"Let me get your brownie," Jawanna barked at Maria as she towered over her in the lunchroom. Maria did not want to give Jawanna her brownie. She wanted to eat it herself, but Jawanna was the biggest girl in the grade and also the meanest. Maria was one of the smallest. Sliding the tray toward Jawanna, Maria replied, "Sure, Jawanna. I wasn't going to eat it anyway."

After Jawanna left, Maria's friend Jessica approached her and said, "Why didn't you tell her to go somewhere?" Maria sighed. She felt sick to her stomach. She replied, "Yeah right... and get pounded? No thanks." Jessica put her arm around her friend's shoulder, "Look, Maria, if you don't stick up for yourself, Jawanna is going to be eating your brownies for a long time." Maria considered Jessica's advice for a moment and then responded, "Well, brownies are fattening anyway. Maybe if I give her enough dessert, she'll clog her arteries and have a heart attack." The girls chuckled at this but Maria still felt sick to her stomach.

The next day at school, Jawanna was walking to the pencil sharpener when she noticed that Maria was using a mechanical pencil. "Hey Maria, let me hold that pencil." Maria looked down at her mechanical pencil. It had kitties and stars on it and she liked it very much. She replied, "I can't, Jawanna. It's my last one." Jawanna put one hand on her hip, sneered at Maria, and said, "Well, you've gotten to use it quite a bit. I haven't gotten to use it at all. Can't you see that's unfair?" Maria gulped, "Um, yeah, I guess I can see that. Here, you can use it for now, but maybe I can get it back at the end of the day," replied Maria as she handed Jawanna her pencil. Jawanna used the mechanical pencil with the kitties and the stars on it until the end of the day. Maria used a short wooden pencil. When the bell rang, Jawanna brought over Maria's mechanical pencil in several pieces. She dropped it on Maria's desk. "Here's your pencil. It's not working," Jawanna said, laughing as she left.

Ms. McMillan dismissed all the students but Maria. "Maria, may I see you for a moment?" she asked. Maria's stomach sank as she approached the stern woman. Ms. McMillan was tough and the last thing that Maria wanted was to get into more trouble. Sensing Maria's feelings, Ms. McMillan put a hand on her shoulder, "It's OK, Maria. You're not in trouble. I just wanted to share something with you." Maria exhaled as Ms. McMillan continued. "When I was your age, I was bullied by a girl named Carrie Carter." Maria looked at her with surprise. "You were?" Maria couldn't imagine that a person as strong as Ms. McMillan had been bullied. "I was," Ms. McMillan replied. "Carrie bullied me every day. I gave her my lunch money, I did her homework for her, and I even let her call me cruel nicknames." Maria could not believe what she was hearing. Ms. McMillan continued, "This went on for years until my mother got sick. That was a pivotal moment in my life. When I saw my mom in that condition, I learned that I had to be strong in life. I stopped giving Carrie the lunch money that my mother worked so hard to give me. I stopped doing her homework for her and used the extra time to help my mom. Carrie still called me names. She called me worse names, but that was because she needed me to be weak, and I had grown strong." Maria looked down. Ms. McMillan continued, "True strength comes from inside of you, Maria. Think about that tonight."

Maria considered Ms. McMillan's words as she walked home. She thought about it as she ate dinner, while she did her homework, and before she went to sleep. The next morning on the school playground, Jawanna ran up to her. "Look, Maria, I didn't do my homework last night, and we all know that you did yours, because you're a nerd, so I need you to do mine too. O.K.? Thanks." Maria got off the bench she was sitting on next to Jessica. She put one hand on her hip and replied, "Actually, Jawanna, I don't really have time for that now. In fact, I don't have time for that ever again." Maria stared Jawanna. A split second before Jawanna put on her sneer Maria caught a glimpse of her fear.

Then Jawanna pushed Maria into the wood chips. Jessica jumped up from her seat on the bench right as Ms. McMillan appeared from behind. "Jawanna, bring your butt down to the office," she said while throwing her thumb in the direction of the school building. As Jawanna walked off with her head hung low, Ms. McMillan helped Maria up off the ground and said, "I'm proud of you, girl." Maria smiled. Her tailbone was sore and her pants were dirty, but her stomach felt fine.

Explain your answer.

2. Which character is best described as the **antagonist**?

Explain your answer.

3. Is Jessica a static or dynamic character?

Explain your answer.

4. Is Jessica a **round** or **flat** character?

Explain your answer.

5. Is Maria a static or dynamic character?

Explain your answer.

6. Is Maria a **round** or **flat** character?

Explain your answer.

7. Is Jawanna a static or dynamic character?

Explain your answer.

8. Is Jawanna a round or flat character?

Explain your answer.

9.Is Ms. McMillan an antagonist?

Explain your answer.

10. Is Carrie Carter a **dynamic** character?

Explain your answer.