How Updike’s use of **symbolism** helps to develop **character**

**Stokesie**

Rushing to become an adult can result in responsibilities you aren’t ready for. Updike creates the character Stokesie as a cautionary tale. Stokesie has two children and is married at the early age of twenty two. We learn that he is trying too hard to be an adult as he loses his composure when three scantily clad young women enter the store. He address this surprise by belting out “Oh Daddy, I feel faint.” This expression would usually be reserved for the teenage boy with raging hormones, rather than a father of two with the goal of becoming manager of the local A&P. Sammy sees Stokesie’s actions as something he hopes he doesn’t become. After having children the idea of still being excited over young women in a bikini should be a thing of the past. Hearing Stokesie’s reaction to the girls allows the audience to instantly be the authority on what is right and wrong, and we know he is wrong. Updike’s creation of such a character is to warn us about our level of commitment. Those that are trying to be seen as adults will take on responsibilities, but are not ready to take control of them. He is a warning sign to Sammy. Through the use of symbolism Updike teaches us all that we eventually have to give in and when we do, it cannot be anything but a full commitment.

**Directions:**

Write a detailed body paragraph **for each** of the remaining characters within John Updike’s “A&P” (Mr. Lengel and the 3 Girls)

You will receive credit for completing both paragraphs

You will hand in ONE to be graded

Be sure to include TEXT BASED EVIDENCE to PROVE how **symbolism develops character**

**Develop/Explain** how the evidence you’ve chosen PROVES how **symbolism develops character**