

Determining a Character's Motivation

Motivation is the reason someone does something.

Motivation can come from what someone wants or what someone feels.

• Motivation Word Bank •	
Why is the character acting like this?	
<i>What do they want?</i>	<i>What do they feel?</i>
safety food approval money friendship revenge	love anger ambition fear curiosity envy

Section 1: Match each character's actions to their motivation.

Hannah invited everyone to her birthday party.

ambition

Jorge decided to try out for the baseball team.

envy

Peter sold some of his toys at a garage sale.

friendship

Uma took the pink pencil, even though it didn't belong to her.

money

Section 2: Describe how you act when you want or feel something.

When I want **food**, I _____.

When I feel **angry**, I _____.

When I feel **curious**, I _____.

Section 3: Read the short story and determine the main character's motivation.

It was almost time for the 5th grade science fair. Raoul was excited to begin his project. He really wanted to build a volcano and make it explode. He had been reading about volcanoes all year, and he was excited to show off what he had learned. However, as the big day approached, Raoul's teacher, Mr. Hunt, posted a list of suggested topics and volcanoes were not on the list. That afternoon, Mr. Hunt called him over and asked, "Raoul, how would you like to do your science project on the water cycle?" Raoul frowned. He really wanted to tell Mr. Hunt his idea, but he was nervous that his teacher wouldn't like it, so he didn't say anything. After school Raoul went to the library to find books about the water cycle. He wasn't very interested in his new topic, but he didn't want to upset Mr. Hunt.

I think Raoul was motivated to _____

because he (wanted/felt) _____.