Lesson Topic: Identify and Describe Characters

Common Core Standards:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3 With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3 Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.

Grade level: PreK-1

Materials:
Bluebee Pal connected to tablet, familiar story books, whiteboard/markers

Required Free Applications:
Youtube Kids , Nick Jr. , Epic Books

Optional Paid Applications:
BrainPopJr. , Tales2Go , Speakaboos

Set-up:
Download required free apps onto your tablet (or paid applications if desired)
Sync your Bluebee Pal with your tablet
Visit the apps you will be using to familiarize yourself with their layout or save videos as needed

Lesson Instructions:
1. Write the word "character" on the whiteboard. Tell students that a character is who the story is about, usually a person or animal.
2. Look at the covers of some familiar story books and have kids guess who the character is to gauge their prior knowledge.
3. Tell students that Bluebee is going to teach them more about characters. Stop at important information to have students retell what they learned about characters.
    a. Free app: Watch the video from Youtube Kids
        i. Teaching Independent Learners "Story Elements: Characters"
        ii. Teaching Without Frills "Story Elements For Kids: What Is a Character?"
    b. Paid website: Watch "Characters" video on BrainPopJr. Then take the quiz to see what the students learned.
4. Tell students that Bluebee will now read them a story and they need to determine who the characters are. Stop as each main character is introduced and have students identify their name and physical character traits.
    a. Free app: Listen to "Pup, Pup and Away" on the Nick Jr app (use read-to-me option in settings of app).
        i. Option: Turn on "Parent Tips" in app settings to have comprehension questions pop up as you read the story
    b. Free app: Find a preferred read aloud on Youtube Kids or Epic Books
    c. Paid apps: Listen to a book of your choosing from apps such as Tales2Go or Speakaboos
5. After the book is finished, have students recall the main characters in the story (Mayor Goodway, Ryder and the Paw Patrol dogs).
6. Closing: Play a song from Youtube Kids that talks about characters using your Bluebee Pal. Here are some of our favorites:
    a. Heidi Songs "Parts of a Story- Classroom Book Project"
    b. Jack Hartman "Parts of a Story"

Differentiation:
For struggling students, use the Companion Activity Guide pages 28-34 to read "Andy's Friends". Students will be introduced to all of the Bluebee Pals characters. Then you can use the Bluebee Pals app to have the Bluebee pals characters introduce themselves and the students then retell who the character is. To get to this activity, go to the house filled with daily activities and click on the living room. The Bluebee Pals characters are seated on the couch and ready to introduce themselves. Students can practice writing the characters names in their booklets and identifying what animal they are.

Extension:
For more character fun, students can use Bluebee with Starfall . On the homepage of StarFall, students will select the person then complete "Who am I?" by building the main character from the story. Students can take turns telling about the physical character traits of their character.