

Name: _____ Date: _____

"Thirteen and a Half"

Character Thinking Tool

The questions in this activity are about

Ashley

1. At the beginning of the story, how does Ashley feel about growing up? How do you know?

2. Something that is done "to the hilt" is done to the fullest, without limits. How does Ashley "live to the hilt"?

3. Why did Ashley's mom hide the birds' deaths from Ashley? Was it the right thing to do?

4. Is there a difference between getting older and growing up? Explain.

5. At the beginning of the story, Ashley says that at 13 and a half, "Things shift, subtly. You'll see." How do things shift for Ashley on her half birthday?

6. Is Ashley a static character or a dynamic character? Give your reasoning.

A **static character** does not change in any important way over the course of a story.

A **dynamic character** undergoes an important internal change over the course of a story.

7. Do you think Ashley and the narrator will become friends? Would you like to be friends with Ashley?