

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Part survival drama, part dystopic slumber party, *The Wilds*, premiering December 11 on Amazon Prime Video, follows a group of teenage girls from radically different backgrounds after an airplane crash leaves them stranded on a deserted island. The characters need to get a grip on who they really are — and who their island-mates really are — in order to survive together. Just as in real life, that process begins with first impressions and testing first impressions against personal experience.

PART 1 How do you form first impressions? For example, take a look at these characters from *The Wilds*.

Partner with a classmate and try to size up each character based only on what you see. On a separate sheet of paper, complete the following sentences to show how you perceive each character.

- She looks like someone I would ...
- She probably acts like she ...
- If she has a secret, I bet it's...

After you have recorded your first impressions, go to [Amazon.com/TheWilds](https://www.amazon.com/TheWilds) to read profiles of these characters. What surprises you? In class, talk about the role stereotypes and other kinds of preconceptions that you've probably picked up in stories and in life may have influenced your first impression of each character. Talk also about how writers, like those behind *The Wilds*, use our preconceptions to build and develop narrative characters.



LEAH



SHELBY



MARTHA



RACHEL



DOT



NORA



TONI



FATIN

PART 2 Now experiment with using first impressions to create a character for a story of your own. First, go online and find an interesting but anonymous teenage model in an ad or on a post. Celebrities, news figures, and relatives, not allowed! Use this graphic organizer to write a profile for your character based on what you see and what that prompts you to imagine.

First Impressions Character Profile	
Name	
Best school subject	
Extracurricular activities	
Hobbies/Pastimes	
Best friend	
Family life	
Goal/Hope for the future	

Which is harder — surviving your teenage years or surviving on a deserted island?
Find out on *The Wilds*, beginning December 11 on Amazon Prime Video.
Episode 1 streams FREE December 11-25 on Amazon.com/TheWilds

