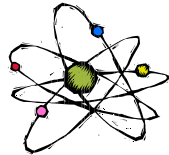


Name: _____

Section: _____

Directions: Read the following passage and complete the table on the back by identifying the personality traits of the three main characters.

The Atom Anecdote



Polly, Nellie, and Nancy all work together as a team at the atom factory in upstate New York. They have been working there for 10 years now making atoms, and any new employee always finds this particular threesome quite interesting. Polly is always the positive one in the group, always able to find something good in others. She always wants everyone to be happy, and is often the center of attention, since people like her. Without Polly, the atom building team would lack an identity. It is for these reasons that she is described as “Positive Polly” by her co-workers. Nellie, on the other hand, is often quite grumpy and can be pretty rude to those around her, even Polly. For a small person (in comparison to the others) she likes to complain and give people a hard time, and most people, with the exception of Polly, try to stay away from all her negative energy. For some reason, Polly always gravitates toward Nellie. She has even been nicknamed “Negative Nellie.” Nancy is the third person on the atom-building team, and she never seems to have an opinion about anything. She goes along with what others do, always remaining neutral, and appears to be good friends with Polly. Her co-workers refer to her as “Neutral Nancy” due to her lack of opinions and her passive nature. To some, she is even considered “dead weight.” Nancy and Polly stick together, and enjoy each other’s company. Nellie doesn’t have many friends, and mostly just floats around as an outsider, looking in at Polly and Nancy in the center of the popularity circle. She never really makes it in the circle, but she is able to concentrate more on the job as a result. She sees what comes in and out, and she is the first person that others encounter when they interact with the team. Sometimes, Nellie goes to other teams to help out when they get busy, and sometimes members with the same job from other atom building teams join her to help her out too. Polly and Nancy work hard keeping the heart of the operation functioning properly. The job also becomes more stressful at times because Polly and Nancy have three employees each working underneath their command. Polly, Nellie, and Nancy all have their own personalities and jobs to do, and it is often their differences that enable them to create complete atoms all day long.

Polly	Nellie	Nancy