

Mastering Character Description

Learning objective: To understand and apply descriptive techniques, including expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials, and emotive language, to create vivid character descriptions.

Read each flashcard carefully. The front of the card asks a question or presents a term, and the back provides a definition or an example to help you improve your creative writing.

What is an expanded noun phrase?

A group of words containing a noun and at least one adjective to add detail, such as 'Pip the cheerful, emerald-green caterpillar'.

What is a fronted adverbial?

A word or phrase at the start of a sentence that describes how, when, or where an action happens, e.g., 'With a curious hoot, Nova scanned the stars.'

How do you use a simile to describe a character?

By comparing one thing to another using 'like' or 'as', such as 'Max was as quick as a flash when solving his maths puzzles.'

What is the purpose of emotive language?

Words chosen to create a specific emotional response in the reader, such as describing Ellie as 'gentle' or 'wise' to show her kind nature.

What is the difference between physical appearance and personality?

Physical appearance is what a character looks like (e.g., striped fur), while personality is how they act (e.g., being brave or kind).

Give an example of a metaphor for a character.

A direct comparison without using 'like' or 'as', such as 'Zara is a walking rainbow,' to show she is very colourful and creative.

Why use 'show, don't tell' in your writing?

Instead of saying a character is 'nervous', you show it: 'Kit tapped his paws impatiently and avoided eye contact.'

What is an adjective?

A word that describes a noun, like 'brave' in 'the brave lion, Leo'.

How can you describe a character's movement?

Use strong verbs and adverbs, such as 'Finn darted gracefully through the deep, blue ocean.'

What are personality traits?

Qualities that describe a character's inner self, like Bea being 'industrious' or 'hard-working'.

Why is it important to use varied sentence structures?

It keeps the reader interested and helps the character description flow better.

What should you focus on when describing a character's voice?

You can describe the tone, volume, or speed, such as 'Rosa chirped in a bright, musical tone'.