

Mastering the Art of Character Description

Bring your characters to life: Show, don't just tell!

- How can you use an expanded noun phrase to give the reader more information about a character's appearance, such as their hair, eyes, or clothing?
- Why is it more effective to describe a character's actions (e.g., 'he paced the room') rather than simply stating their personality (e.g., 'he was nervous')?
- In what ways can you use sensory language to describe how a character sounds, smells, or feels, rather than just how they look?
- How can a character's 'internal motivation'—what they want or fear most—drive the plot of your story forward?
- How does using a simile or metaphor help the reader build a stronger mental image of your character?

Did you know? Did you know? Authors often base their characters on a 'mish-mash' of people they have met in real life! By combining a friend's laugh, a grandparent's favourite hobby, and a stranger's unique style, you can create a character that feels truly authentic.

Key vocabulary: Expanded noun phrase · Adverbial · Personality traits · Sensory imagery · Metaphor · Simile · Appearance · Motivation