

Mastering Character Description

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases, precise adjectives, and powerful verbs to craft vivid character descriptions.

Read each task carefully. Use the vocabulary bank to enhance your writing and ensure you are showing the reader what a character is like, rather than just telling them.

Think about our friend Max the monkey. He is not just a monkey; he is a mathematician. He has fur the colour of burnt toast and fingers that tap rhythmically when he is solving a complex puzzle. He wears a satchel filled with compasses and rulers, and his eyes widen with delight whenever he spots a pattern in the jungle leaves.

Word bank: Resilient · Observant · Meticulous · Glistening · Radiant · Towering · Pondering · Galloping · Determined · Luminous

1. Identify two expanded noun phrases used in the passage above. Why do these phrases help the reader visualise Max more clearly? (2 marks)

2. Rewrite the following sentence to include a more powerful verb and a precise adjective: 'Max walked through the forest and looked at a leaf.' (2 marks)

3. Explain why the author chose to describe Max's fingers 'tapping rhythmically'. What does this tell us about his personality? (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast: How might you describe Pip the bookworm caterpillar compared to Max? Use at least one word from the word bank to describe Pip's nature. (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: If Max were to lose his satchel, how would his behaviour change? Use evidence from the passage to support your prediction. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a character of your own invention. Around the outside of your drawing, write five descriptive labels using expanded noun phrases (e.g., 'shimmering, emerald-green wings that flutter like autumn leaves').



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (50-70 words) describing a new character who is the complete opposite of Max. Use at least three words from the word bank and explain why you chose those specific adjectives to represent their personality.