

Crafting Compelling Characters: A Writer's Toolkit

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases and precise adjectives to describe a character's appearance, personality, and actions.

Follow the prompts below to build a detailed portrait of an original character. Think about how your character moves, what they wear, and what makes them unique.

As the golden sun began to dip behind the ancient oak tree, Barnaby the Badger adjusted his spectacles and peered into the shimmering brook.

Word bank: mysterious · vibrant · shimmering · inquisitive · consequently · furthermore · despite this · meticulously · radiating · unusual · startlingly · gracefully

1. Physical Appearance: Describe your character's most distinctive features. Start by writing: My character possesses... (2 marks)

2. Personality and Traits: Explain how your character acts when they are faced with a challenge. Start by writing: Whenever a problem arises, they... (2 marks)

3. The Character's Environment: Where does your character feel most at home? Use this sentence starter: Tucked away in a secret corner of the world, they... (2 marks)

4. Justify your choices: Why did you choose these specific personality traits for your character? Explain how these traits might affect the choices they make in a story. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast: How is your character different from Pip the bookworm caterpillar? What shared interests might they have? (3 marks)

6. Creative Extension: What might happen if your character suddenly lost their most prized possession? Describe their immediate reaction. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Write a short paragraph describing your character interacting with Kit the fox. Focus on how their different personalities create a contrast in the scene. Use at least two pieces of dialogue to show their relationship.