

World Book Day: The Character Compass

Learning objective: To analyse character traits and motivations by matching descriptive vocabulary to specific character archetypes, demonstrating an understanding of how authors build personalities.

Pip the bookworm is getting ready for World Book Day, but they have mixed up all the character descriptions! Read the list of traits below and match them to the correct character archetype. For each, explain why that trait makes a character feel 'real' or 'believable' to a reader.

Word bank: Resilient · Empathetic · Ambiguous · Determined · Eccentric · Courageous · Inquisitive

1. A character who never gives up on their quest, no matter how many obstacles they face. Which word from the bank describes them? Explain why this trait helps a reader connect with the story. (2 marks)

2. A character who asks endless questions about how the world works. Which word from the bank describes them? Why might an author choose to include a character like this in a mystery story? (2 marks)

3. A character who is very strange, wears odd clothes, and does things in an unusual way. Which word from the bank describes them? How does this type of character add humour to a book? (2 marks)

4. A character who is kind and understands exactly how others are feeling. Which word from the bank describes them? Why is this an important quality for a main character? (2 marks)

5. Choose one word from the bank that you have not used yet. Write a one-sentence description of a brand-new character who fits that trait. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a costume that Pip the caterpillar could wear to school for World Book Day. Base the costume on one of the character traits from the word bank (for example, a 'Courageous' knight costume or an 'Inquisitive' detective outfit).



Extension challenge: Imagine you are writing a story for World Book Day. Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) introducing a character who is both 'Resilient' and 'Eccentric'. Use at least two adjectives to describe their appearance.