

Creating Amazing Characters: A Writer's Guide

Bring Your Characters to Life: Show, Don't Just Tell!

- **Character Appearance:** Always describe the physical traits first. Use an expanded noun phrase, like 'the shaggy, golden-maned lion', to help the reader see your character clearly.
- **Personality Traits:** Think about how your character behaves. Are they brave like Leo, or curious like Nova? Use powerful verbs to show their personality in action.
- **The Five Senses:** Describe how your character looks, sounds, or even smells! Does Pip the caterpillar smell like fresh forest leaves? Does Kit the fox have a quick, clicking voice?
- **Show, Don't Tell:** Instead of saying a character is 'happy', describe their actions. Do they have a wide, beaming smile or do they skip along the path?
- **Dialogue and Voice:** Give your character a unique way of speaking. Does Zara the zebra use short, snappy sentences or long, artistic descriptions when she talks?
- **Internal Thoughts:** Let the reader know what your character is dreaming of or worrying about. This helps the reader connect with them emotionally.

Did you know? Did you know? When writers describe a character, they often use 'Show-Not-Tell' to help the reader imagine them. Instead of saying 'Max the monkey was excited', a writer might say, 'Max bounced on his tail, his eyes wide as he gripped his math puzzle.' This paints a picture in the reader's mind!

Key vocabulary: Expanded noun phrase · Adjective · Personality · Appearance · Show-not-tell · Characteristic · Dialogue