

Sheet 14: How the Writer Builds Character

Worked example:

Read this: 'Max adjusted his glasses, carefully sorting the counting cubes into perfect rows of ten.' What does this tell us about Max? Choose one: A) He is lazy, B) He loves order and math.

Answer: B) He loves order and math, because he is sorting cubes into groups.

- **Read this description of Pip: 'Pip hunched over the tiny dictionary, his magnifying glass hovering as he scribbled a new word onto his leaf-journal.'**

What does Pip's action tell you about his hobby? Which word in the text suggests he is very focused?

- **If a writer describes Nova the owl as 'carefully adjusting her telescope while whispering secrets to the stars', what personality trait are they building?**

Write one sentence explaining why Nova seems curious.

- **Match the character detail to the trait it builds:**

Leo writes poems about his friends -> Kind and thoughtful
Kit quickly fixes a broken clock -> Clever and logical

- **If you wanted to show that Ellie the elephant is 'wise', would you describe her running around in a rush, or pausing to tell a story from long ago?**

Write your choice and explain why.

- **Complete the sentence: To build a character, a writer uses what a character _____ (actions) and what a character _____ (dialogue).**

does says

Self-check: Check your answers: Did you use specific evidence from the text to explain why a character acts the way they do?

Ready for next: Once you can identify how a character is built, you are ready to summarise a story in five sentences.