

Mastering Character Description

Learning objective: To understand and apply techniques for creating vivid, engaging character descriptions using expanded noun phrases, relative clauses, and emotive language.

Read each flashcard to learn a new technique for writing character descriptions. Use these cards to help you draft a paragraph describing Max the monkey or Pip the bookworm.

What is an 'Expanded Noun Phrase'?

A phrase that adds detail to a noun using adjectives, such as 'The clever, energetic monkey with bright, curious eyes.'

How do you use a 'Relative Clause'?

By adding extra information to a sentence using words like 'who', 'which', or 'whose', for example: 'Pip, who carries a tiny satchel, loves reading.'

What is the difference between 'Appearance' and 'Personality'?

Appearance describes how a character looks (e.g. golden fur), while personality describes how they act or feel (e.g. brave and kind).

What does 'Show, Don't Tell' mean?

Instead of saying a character is 'happy', you describe their actions, such as 'Max grinned widely and did a joyful somersault.'

What is a 'Simile'?

Comparing two things using 'as' or 'like', such as: 'Nova's eyes were as wide as golden saucers.'

What is a 'Metaphor'?

A direct comparison saying one thing IS another, such as: 'Leo is a mountain of courage in the forest.'

How can 'Alliteration' improve a description?

By using words that start with the same sound to create rhythm, such as: 'Bea the busy, buzzing bee.'

What is 'Emotive Language'?

Words chosen to create a specific feeling in the reader, such as 'miserable', 'thrilled', or 'gentle'.

Why use 'Powerful Verbs' in a character description?

To make actions more exciting, e.g., instead of 'walked', use 'prowled', 'scampered', or 'glided'.

What is the purpose of 'Fronted Adverbials'?

To describe how, when, or where an action happens at the start of a sentence, e.g., 'With a joyful leap, Max climbed the tree.'