

Mastering the Art of Character Description

Bring your characters to life: Don't just tell the reader who they are—show them!

- How can you use a character's unique 'idiosyncrasy'—like Max the monkey constantly counting his bananas—to reveal his personality without stating he is good at maths?
- Why is it more effective to describe a character's reactions to a situation rather than simply listing their physical traits?
- How do similes and metaphors help a reader visualise a character's internal feelings, such as Leo the lion feeling 'as courageous as a rising sun'?
- In what ways can a character's choice of clothing or belongings reflect their background or their current emotional state?
- Explain why a balance of 'show, don't tell' is essential for keeping a reader curious about a character's true intentions.

Did you know? Did you know? Authors often use the 'Rule of Three' when describing characters. By choosing three distinct details—one physical, one behavioural, and one emotional—you can create a memorable mental image for your reader in just a single sentence!

Key vocabulary: Adjectives · Metaphor · Simile · Personification · Personality · Idiosyncrasy · Characterisation · Connotation