

Mastering the Craft: Character Description Template

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases, precise adjectives, and relative clauses to create a vivid and compelling character description.

Use this template to build a multi-dimensional character. Start by visualising your character's appearance, then delve deeper into their personality, motivations, and the way they interact with the world. Use the word bank to help elevate your vocabulary, but aim to include your own sophisticated synonyms as well.

Word bank: Resilient · Meticulous · Formidable · Ambiguous · Radiant · Sombre · Intricate · Gesticulate · Melancholy · Vivacious

1. Physical Appearance: Describe your character's outward appearance. Focus on specific details such as their posture, unique features, or the clothes they wear. Use at least one expanded noun phrase. (3 marks)

2. Personality and Temperament: Explain your character's inner nature. Are they impulsive, cautious, or perhaps overly ambitious? Provide a justification for why they behave this way. (3 marks)

3. The 'Telling Detail': Identify one specific habit, possession, or physical quirk that reveals something hidden about their personality. Explain what this detail suggests to the reader. (4 marks)

4. Dialogue and Voice: Write a short piece of dialogue that reflects your character's social status, education, or mood. How do they choose their words? (3 marks)

5. Motivations and Ambitions: What is the primary goal driving your character? Compare and contrast their current situation with where they hope to be in the future. (4 marks)

6. Critical Analysis: What might happen if your character were placed in a high-pressure situation, such as a stormy night at sea or a grand historical banquet? Justify your prediction using evidence from your description. (5 marks)

Extension challenge: Creative Writing Task: Write a short paragraph (150-200 words) introducing your character as they enter a room for the first time. Focus on 'showing, not telling'—instead of saying they are nervous, describe how their hands tremble or how they avoid eye contact.