

# Crafting Compelling Characters: A Descriptive Writing Scaffold

*Learning objective: To write a sophisticated character description using expanded noun phrases, relative clauses, and evocative vocabulary.*

Follow this guide to build a vivid character. Focus on 'showing, not telling' by describing actions and reactions rather than just listing traits.

As the golden sun began to dip behind the horizon, Leo the lion emerged from the tall, swaying grass, his mane catching the amber light like a crown of flickering flames.

*Word bank: inquisitive · shimmering · meticulously · consequently · nevertheless · an aura of · with a subtle hint of · frequently · radiating · beside*

**1. Physical Appearance: Describe the character's most striking feature. Include an expanded noun phrase and a relative clause to add depth. Start with: 'Cloaked in...', or 'Adorned with...' (3 marks)**

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**2. Personality and Temperament: Explain why your character behaves the way they do. What is one specific action that reveals their inner nature? Start with: 'Beneath the surface, there lies...' (3 marks)**

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**3. The Character's Ambition: Justify what motivates your character. What is their ultimate goal, and what obstacles might they face? Start with: 'Driven by a singular purpose, they...', (3 marks)**

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**4. The Aura/Atmosphere: Compare and contrast how the character feels when they are alone versus when they are with others. Start with: 'Whilst in solitude, they appear..., yet in the company of others...' (4 marks)**

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**5. Critical Reflection: What might happen if your character were placed in an environment that completely contradicts their personality? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)**

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**6. Creative Synthesis: If your character were to encounter Max the monkey, how would they react to his logical, puzzle-solving nature? Justify your answer. (3 marks)**

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*Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph describing your character interacting with a mysterious object they have just discovered. Use at least two pieces of figurative language (e.g., metaphor, simile, or personification) to enhance the reader's imagery.*