Crafting Compelling Characters

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases, precise adjectives, and powerful verbs to create vivid character descriptions.

Read each task carefully. Use your imagination to build detailed characters, focusing on show-don't-tell techniques and varied sentence structure.

Character description is not just about listing physical traits; it is about capturing a person's essence, personality, and the way they move through the world. By using sensory details and strong vocabulary, you can help the reader see, hear, and even feel the presence of your character.

Word bank: Resilient · Meticulous · Luminous · Galloped · Intricate · Gnarled · Observant · Ambushed · Shimmering · Determined

1. Write an expanded noun phrase to describe an accessory that Nova the owl might wear while stargazing. Include at least two adjectives and a prepositional phrase. (2 marks)

2. Replace the boring verb 'walked' with a more precise, powerful verb that shows how Leo the lion might move when he is feeling brave and confident. Write a full sentence using this verb. (2 marks)

3. ‘Show, don’t tell’: Instead of saying 'Max the monkey was clever,' write a sentence describing an action Max takes that proves he is intelligent. (3 marks)

4. Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) describing Zara the zebra’s appearance. Focus on the patterns of her coat and how they reflect her creative personality. (4 marks)

5. Explain why it is important to include a character's internal thoughts or feelings in a description, rather than just their physical appearance. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a brand-new character who is a master inventor. Include at least three items on their person that show us what their hobby is (e.g., goggles, a satchel full of springs, or a glowing mechanical gadget).

Extension challenge: Choose one of the BookFlik characters (e.g., Pip, Kit, or Bea) and write a 'character profile' using only formal, descriptive language. Include a section on their 'Hidden Talent' and their 'Greatest Ambition'.