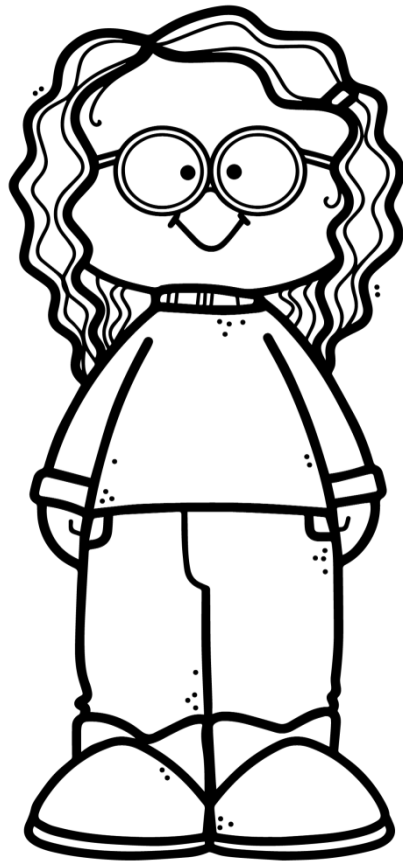


Descriptive Portraits



How to describe characters for
narrative writing

Descriptive Portraits

2.

Use the following to help you describe your characters in your narrative writing:

1. CHARACTER:

Grotesque, repulsive, notorious, stubborn, arrogant, obstinate, peevish, irritable, violent, rash, impulsive, impetuous, hot-headed, impatient, tenacious, sly, spiteful, pleasing, charming, agreeable, attractive, handsome, jovial, jolly, sprightly, humorous, witty, gentle, compassionate, humble, timid, loyal, courteous, sincere, polite, chivalrous, honest.

2. HANDS:

Soft, gentle, delicate, small, large, skinny, slender, clammy, feeble, scarred, grimy, hairy, rough, dirty, tender, smooth.

3. TONE OF VOICE:

Soft, sweet, gentle, poignant, melodious, soothing, rich, clear, plaintive, nasal, deep, strong, high-pitched, firm, sharp, rough, raucous, crabbed, squeaky, harsh, sarcastic, husky, hoarse, peevish, guttural, grating, croaking, stuttering.

Resources used in this file from:



[https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/
Store/Hello-Literacy](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Hello-Literacy)



[https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/
Store/Educlips](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Educlips)



[https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/
Store/Creating4-The-Classroom](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Creating4-The-Classroom)

Descriptive Portraits

4.

8. HAIR:

Curly, oily, greasy, plaited, creased, pony-tailed, wavy, reddish, sandy, auburn, silky, sleek, tinted, soft, unkempt, matted, coarse, tangled, long, short, scraggy.

9. FOREHEAD:

Prominent, protruding, high, wrinkled, receding, wide, scarred, patchy, balding, low, narrow, round, smooth, broad, freckled, domed, pale.

10. NOSE:

Snub, pointed, dainty, flat, twitching, whimsical, inquisitive, funny, narrow, round, freckled, inquisitive, small, bulbous, runny, curved.

11. FACE:

Round, oval, thin, wizened, flat, moon, long, pointy, chiselled, baby-faced, plump.

12. LIPS AND MOUTH:

Thick, soft, small, tiny, cracked, ruddy, gaping, wide, protruding, open, stained, painted, smudged, full.

13. MANNERISMS:

People have different mannerisms. A mannerism is a habit that a character performs, almost automatically. Mannerisms make your characters unique and tell us more about what kind of person they are. Observe the people you know well and compile your own list. Some examples are: Twitching the nose, blinking the eyes, shrugging one's shoulders, tapping the feet, biting the finger nails, brushing back the hair, touching the spectacles, clearing the throat, picking the skin.

14. CLOTHING:

The clothing a character wears tells us a little more about them. Use adjectives to describe items of clothing.

The best method here is to compile your own list. Some examples are: plaited shawl, high-heeled shoes, wide-brimmed hat, flannel trousers, flashy tie, short denim jacket, blue striped blouse, dark worn jumper, long worn scarf.

Descriptive Portraits

6.

USING SIMILES

A simile is a Figure of Speech which compares two things which are dissimilar using the words "like" or "as". Using similes to describe characters adds great colour to your writing. Some examples are:

- His hair was as black as coal.
- She was as blind as a bat.
- He was like a fish out of water.
- She wore her shawl like a shell covering a snail.
- He ran like an athlete starting a race.



Descriptive Portraits

3.

4. COMPLEXION:

Sallow, ruddy, tanned, wrinkled, pale, shrunken, shrivelled, dry, blotched, freckled, tender, flushed, rough, pallid, bronzed, blanched, wizened, sun-burned, blemished, withered.

5. GAIT:

Walked, stepped, plodded, sauntered, strolled, marched, rambled, roamed, wandered, trudged, strode, stamped, trampled, treaded, paced, slouched, ambled, swaggered.

6. APPEARANCE:

Sturdy, strong, robust, brawny, slim, lanky, skinny, scraggy, thin, feeble, puny, weak, bulky, massive, bony, powerful, gigantic, sinewy, athletic, gaunt, rugged, scrawny.

7. EYES:

Luminous, bright, clear blue, hazel, grey, brown, twinkling, piercing, shifty, sunken, flashing, hypnotic, glittering, haunting, curious, enquiring, sharp, steely, squinty, starry, restless, listless, despairing.