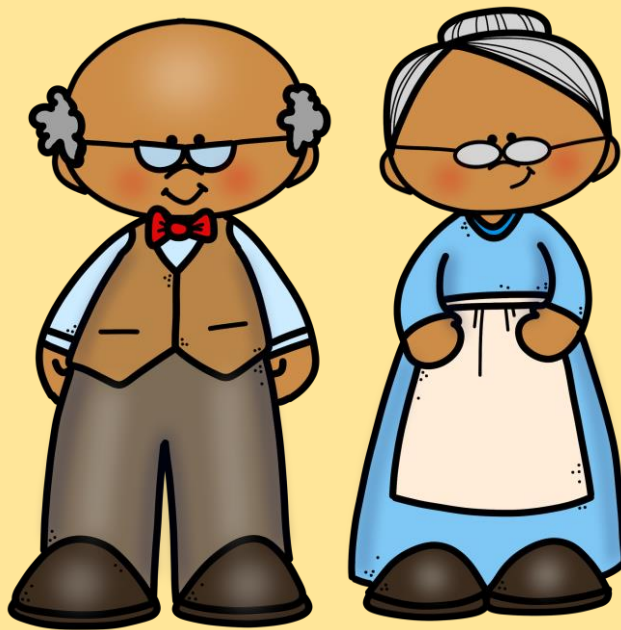

Create a Character



Vocabulary Booklet

Creating a Character

Good character description matters. To help a character come alive in your story, you should start by describing every aspect of the person. This helps the reader to form “mind pictures” of what the character looks like and what kind of a person they are. Use some of the vocabulary in this booklet to help you to create memorable characters for your story.

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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
humble	timid
loyal	courteous
sincere	polite
chivalrous	honest
devious	laid-back
lazy	horrible

Appearance

sturdy	gaunt
strong	rugged
robust	scrawny
brawny	nervous
slim	shifty
lanky	shy
skinny	unkempt
scraggy	rough
thin	crude
feeble	overweight
puny	short
weak	dark
bulky	stocky
massive	stooped
brawny	serious
bony	elderly
powerful	youthful
gigantic	nasty
sinewy	bubbly
athletic	cheerful

Complexion

sallow
ruddy
tanned
wrinkled
pale
shrunken
shrivelled
blotched
freckled
tender
flushed
rough
pallid
bronzed
blanched
wizened
sunburned
blemished
withered
dry

Gait

proceeded	swung
scampered	retreated
departed	ran
strolled	climbed
travelled	raced
sauntered	dived
waddled	galloped
darted	marched
trotted	moved
advanced	reached
prowled	fled
crawled	trudged
plodded	jumped
sneaked	scurried
advanced	stepped
strode	rushed
escaped	wriggled
walked	waded
swayed	thundered
scrambled	limped

Voice

soft

sweet

gentle

poignant

melodious

soothing

rich

clear

plaintive

nasal

deep

strong

high-pitched

firm

sharp

rough

raucous

hoarse

squeaky

husky

Hands

soft

gentle

delicate

small

large

skinny

slender

clammy

feeble

scarred

tattooed

grimy

hairy

rough

dirty

tender

smooth

bony

wrinkled

filthy

Eyes

luminous

bright

clear

hazel

brown

twinkling

piercing

shifty

sunken

flashing

hypnotic

glittering

haunting

curious

enquiring

sharp

steely blue

squinty

restless

despairing

Hair

curly

oily

greasy

plaited

creased

pony-tailed

wavy

reddish

sandy

auburn

silky

sleek

tinted

soft

unkept

matted

coarse

tangled

scraggy

cropped

Face

round

oval

thin

wizened

flat

moon

square

fleshy

freckled

spotty

acned

gloomy

menacing

frowning

serene

anguished

sullen

cheerful

friendly

charming

12

Nose

snub

pointed

dainty

twitching

whimsical

inquisitive

sharp

slender

skinny

freckled

swollen

superior

squashed

strong

bulbous

broad

flat

broken

bumpy

pierced

13

Lips/Mouth

thick

soft

small

tiny

cracked

ruddy

gaping

wide

protruding

open

stained

painted

smudged

full

chapped

swollen

cracked

plump

sultry

pierced

Forehead

prominent

protruding

high

large

wrinkled

freckled

spotty

scaly

receding

wide

frowning

curved

narrow

proud

smooth

bumpy

tanned

arched

vast

rugged

Emotions

angry	mad
furious	delighted
vexed	tired
exhausted	ecstatic
miserable	weary
raging	terrified
alarmed	concerned
anxious	depressed
dismal	gloomy
puzzled	horrified
crushed	dejected
scorned	outraged
seething	resentful
satisfied	calm
disgruntled	sorrowful
cautious	uncertain
impatient	troubled
sombre	moody
crestfallen	hesitant
perplexed	distracted

Clothing

expensive
tattered
dirty
worn
cheap
flashy
formal
conservative
flamboyant
baggy
casual
tight-fitting
colourful
plain
tasteful
unfashionable
vintage
smart
scruffy
skimpy

Mannerisms

shifted from foot to foot

pulled at her earring

picked at his short nails

blinked her eyes constantly

shrugged his shoulders

her nose kept twitching

tapped her feet on the floor

twisted a pen in her hair

fixed his glasses on his nose

cracked his knuckles

stared at the floor

tapped his pen on the desk

apologised for everything

coughed to clear his throat

fiddled with his watch

shifted in her chair

disagreed with everyone

clicked her tongue loudly

tapped his pen on his teeth

pulled at his shirt cuff

Questions

What is their background?

How old are they?

What are their distinctive features?

What are they wearing?

What is their job?

What makes them unique?

How do they move?

How are they feeling?

How do they interact with their surroundings?

What do other characters think of them?

What do they think of other characters?

How do they behave?

How do they speak?

How do they reveal their true character?

Will the reader like or dislike them?

How do they interact with the plot of the story?

Similes

eyes sparkled like diamonds

voice as smooth as silk

ran as fast as a hare

face shone like a beacon

skin as white as snow

looked as fresh as a daisy

stood as sturdy as an oak

a stare as cold as ice

chat as dull as ditchwater

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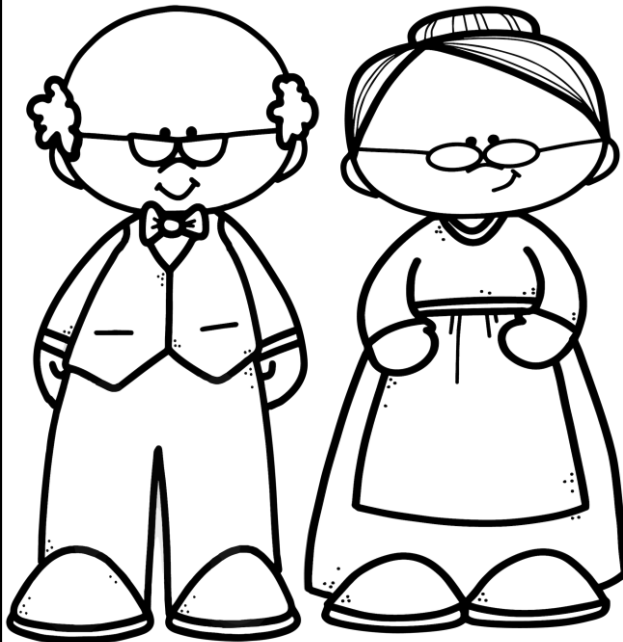
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Show, Don't Tell

“Show, Don't Tell” is a device that authors use in a story to show the reader what a character is like rather than telling us. So, instead of telling the reader that a character was furious, you might say that “his body seemed to enlarge, his face grew as red as a tomato and he bellowed an awful sound”.

Try to use this device when describing a character in your story as it is more imaginative and makes it more exciting for the reader.

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piercing

shifty

sunken

flashing

hypnotic

glittering

haunting

curious

enquiring

sharp

steely blue

squinty

restless

despairing

Hair

curly

oily

greasy

plaited

creased

pony-tailed

wavy

reddish

sandy

auburn

silky

sleek

tinted

soft

unkept

matted

coarse

tangled

scraggy

cropped

Face

round

oval

thin

wizened

flat

moon

square

fleshy

freckled

spotty

acned

gloomy

menacing

frowning

serene

anguished

sullen

cheerful

friendly

charming

Nose

snub

pointed

dainty

twitching

whimsical

inquisitive

sharp

slender

skinny

freckled

swollen

superior

squashed

strong

bulbous

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flat

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bumpy

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