

Writing a Character Profile

Activity 1

Characterisation refers to the methods an author uses to reveal the personality of a character. Readers can learn more about a character through what they say, what they do and what others think about them.

You can use a dictionary to help you with this challenge.

Read the description below:

Valiantly, the Caped Wonder charged forward, tackling the gruesome monster to the ground. Cape flowing and muscles flexing, he catapulted the monster into the waiting cell, ready for transport to the maximum-security hold. Innocent bystanders looked on in awe as the events unfolded.

Circle the words that you think best describe the character described above.

Brave

Ominous

Admired

Selfish

Powerful

Read the description below:

He watched closely as the mother lovingly lifted her baby out of the pram. The child was wriggling and grizzly, having just awoken. Its mother gently and calmly soothed the child, holding it close and shushing it softly. He observed how she carefully cupped the child in her arms and dutifully swayed to bring comfort to her child. He stared in wonderment at the unwavering instinct of the mother to care and protect her precious offspring.

Which of the following words could be used to describe the mother, based on the man's observations of her as she soothes her child?

Negligent

Nurturing

Attentive

Harassed

Unflappable

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Activity 2

Read this description of Captain Hook from the play Peter and Wendy by J. M Barrie:

In the midst of them, the blackest and largest jewel in that dark setting, reclined James Hook, or as he wrote himself, Jas. Hook, of whom it is said he was the only man that the Sea-Cook feared. He lay at his ease in a rough chariot drawn and propelled by his men, and instead of a right hand he had the iron hook with which ever and anon he encouraged them to increase their pace. As dogs this terrible man treated and addressed them, and as dogs they obeyed him. In person he was cadaverous and balkanized, and his hair was dressed in long curls, which at a little distance looked like black candles, and gave a singularly threatening expression to his handsome countenance.

Write a couple of sentences to describe what type of character you think Captain Hook is, based on the description above. Check your spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Imagine you meet a pirate who you don't trust. Write a complete character profile for your pirate, completing each of the categories below:

1. ACTIONS: What does he/she do to make you mistrust them?
2. APPEARANCE: How do they look?
3. WHAT DOES HE/SHE SAY TO YOU? Are the pirate's words truthful or do they make you suspicious?
4. OTHERS' IMPRESSIONS: What are your thoughts about what they say and do?
5. PERSONALITY: Summarise what type of character you think they are.

Use the space on the next page to write the character profile. Remember to:

- Write in full sentences.
- Complete each of the five categories.
- Include vocabulary that makes it clear that you mistrust the character.
- Check your spelling, punctuation and grammar.

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<p>1. ACTIONS</p> <p>What does he/she do to make you mis-trust them?</p>	
<p>2. APPEARANCE</p> <p>How do they look?</p>	
<p>3. WHAT DOES HE/SHE SAY TO YOU?</p> <p>Are the pirate's words truthful or do they make you suspicious?</p>	
<p>4. OTHERS' IMPRESSIONS</p> <p>What are your thoughts about what they say and do?</p>	
<p>5. PERSONALITY</p> <p>Summarise what type of character you think they are.</p>	

Check if you have achieved these criteria:

- Written in full sentences.
- Completed each of the five categories to create a character profile.
- Included vocabulary that makes it clear you mistrust the character.
- Checked your spelling, punctuation and grammar.

