

Character Sketch

Writers Workshop

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What a Character!

A character sketch informs you about the character in a book. When you write a character sketch, you want the reader to have a strong mental image of the person including how the person talks, acts and thinks. This handout is designed to help you write that sketch. It provides a list of words that can be used to describe a person and a list of the types of things you can write about.

Adjectives to Describe a Person

bright	interesting	tall	friendly	thoughtful
curious	short	mean	strange	compassionate
dark	brave	talkative	shy	devious
entertaining	lazy	caring	plump	responsible
fair	helpful	negative	scruffy	energetic
frightening	busy	stubborn	stern	active
funny	loving	daring	quick-tempered	cool
grumpy	lively	gentle	impatient	calm
quiet	cruel	supportive	irritable	mysterious
reliable	cunning	faithful	wise	prankster
sensible	disorganized	patient	kind	determined
slim	smart	reassuring	stocky	patient
strong	cowardly	trustworthy	fickle	
suspicious	honest	excitable	mischievous	
weak	unsmiling	sly	foolish	
wild	unhappy	deceitful	serious	

Writing a Character Sketch

Consider the following about your character:

- gender, age and name
- appearance
- physical and personal strengths and weaknesses
- likes and dislikes
- feelings and behaviours towards other characters
- feelings of other characters towards the character
- feelings of character towards himself/herself
- personality at the beginning of the novel
- changes in personality as story progresses
- you opinion about the character

It is important to include proof from the story to support what you are writing in the character sketch. If you can't support it with something from the story, then it doesn't belong.

Example of a Character Sketch.

Rowan is a twelve year old boy who lives in the tiny village of Rin. He is small and rather scrawny for his age. His unkempt, curly brown hair looks like a mop on his tiny face and his thinness makes him look like a walking skeleton.

The people in the village poke fun of Rowan. The adults call him a weakling because he never stands up for himself. The children call him a coward because when confronted with a problem, Rowan always runs away.

Rowan is the gentlest of the children in the village. He is the only child that can approach any of the farm animals without scaring them away. They trust his soothing touch and calming voice over the roughness and loudness of the other kids.

Rowan faces the greatest challenge of his life. He possess a special gift that he must use to save the village from the fierce dragon that lives in the mountain. He starts the journey afraid of what he might face and worried that he will let the village people down. After facing and winning over his first test, he grows more confident and stronger so that by the end of the novel, he has all the strength he needs to face his greatest test, a face-to-face meeting with the dragon.

I think Rowan doesn't deserve to be treated so poorly. It takes all kinds of people to make the world and everyone can teach us something about how to be a better person.