

CHARACTER Description

Check out these brilliant examples of character description from world-famous writers. You can use these as inspiration for your own writing! How do the writers use the following?

APPEARANCE	DIALOGUE	EMOTION
PERSONALITY	ADJECTIVES	



1 The BFG in Roald Dahl's 'The BFG'

In the **moonlight**, Sophie caught a glimpse of an **enormous long pale wrinkly** face with the most enormous ears. The nose was **as sharp as a knife**, and above the nose there were **two bright flashing eyes**, and the eyes were staring straight at Sophie. There was a **fierce and devilish look** about them.

Check out the fearsome physical description!

2 Anne in Lucy M's 'Anne of Green Gables'

"You don't want me!" **she cried**. "You don't want me because I'm not a boy! I might have expected it. Nobody ever did want me. I might have known it was all too beautiful to last. I might have known nobody really did want me. **Oh**, what shall I do? I'm going to burst into tears!" **Burst into tears** she did. Sitting down on a chair by the table, **flinging** her arms out upon it, and burying her face in them, she proceeded to **cry stormily**.

How is Anne's character shown through the dialogue?



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3 Percy in Rick Riordan's 'Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief'

Don't say I didn't warn you.

My name is Percy Jackson.

I'm twelve years old. Until a few months ago, I was a boarding student at Yancy Academy, a private school for troubled kids in upstate New York.

Am I a troubled kid?

Yeah. You could say that.



When a writer uses the 1st person, we get to journey inside the main character's head, heart, and body.

4 Scrooge in Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'

Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret and self contained and solitary as an oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue; and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice.

Look how Dickens uses adjectives to do with coldness & hardness to describe Scrooge's personality.



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5 Jack in William Golding's 'Lord of the Flies'

...he was **thin and bony**; and his hair was **red** beneath the **black** cap. His face was **crumpled and freckled**, and ugly without silliness. Out of this face stared **two light blue eyes**, frustrated now, and turning, or ready to turn, to anger.

Look at how William Golding uses colour to create a vivid character description.



6 Lord Asriel in Philip Pullman's 'The Golden Compass'

Lord Asriel was a **tall** man with **powerful shoulders**, a **fierce dark face**, and **eyes that seemed to flash and glitter with savage laughter**. It was a face to be dominated by, or to fight: never a face to patronize or pity. **All his movements were large and perfectly balanced**, like those of a **wild animal**, and when he appeared in a room like this, **he seemed a wild animal held in a cage too small for it**

Do you see how the writer describes Lord Asriel's physical appearance and the way he moves to suggest his character?

