



**Text Type:** Character Description

**Text Style:** Descriptive

**Purpose:** to entertain; inform. Uses imagery (senses). Great attention to detail; word choice; adjectives; adverbs; feelings.

**Audience:** Who are you writing for?

**Find It:** Novels; short stories

**Examples:** Dracula, Long John Silver, The Trunchbull (Matilda)

**Short Read:** Picture It or explore one or two good character descriptions and their features. Teach one relevant *Spaghetti* aspect.

**Next Steps:** Try *Setting Description* next or write a narrative for character

**Spelling:** as appropriate

**Punctuation:** usually written in past tense e.g. Malcolm *was* eleven years old; he *had* a pale complexion.

**Grammar:** normal prose fiction structure; varied sentence lengths within paragraphs using SPO and sentence expansion techniques. Use of 4 Sentence Types; subordinating conjunction.

**Handwriting:** as appropriate

**Elements of Style:** (literary devices) Vivid, varied vocabulary; adjectives; adverbs  
Similes; metaphors;  
Uses all the senses (**imagery**) to help bring the description to life

**Text Type:** (and its features) May focus on small details to paint a picture for the reader  
Vivid, varied vocabulary; adjectives; adverbs  
Usually written in past tense e.g. Malcolm **was** eleven years old; he **had** a stocky build and ginger hair.  
Point of View: usually 3rd person e.g. he/she; can be first person

**Text Structure:** (including layout) Normal prose fiction structure  
Short and long sentences  
Paragraph(s)

**ideas & Inspiration:** Use a 'random name generator' online  
Use the superhero generator  
A visual prompt, like a photo or drawing, is really useful  
Results could be used by other classes for 'Picture It'

**Planning:** character description could include:

- Physical Appearance (body, skin, facial features, hair etc.)
- Clothing;
- Name;
- Location (where do they live?);
- Likes/Dislikes

### Single Paragraph Outline

Intro (Topic sentence that introduces the paragraph's main idea)

Detail 1:

Detail 2:

Detail 3:

Concluding sentence

### Teaching Tips:

- Explore effective character descriptions in a whole-class Short Read lesson
- Teach/revise adjectives, similes, metaphors etc. or an aspect of sentence structure/expansion, grammar or punctuation
- Teacher can model and lead shared writing (Simon Cowell)
- Provide a template that can be followed or filled in
- Create and draw detailed picture of character first, then describe it
- Use photos/images as prompts; full body, headshot or simply a pair of shoes, or a house—to spark the imagination!

### Sentence Expansion Techniques:

- Summarising
- Using new vocabulary in each of the Four Sentence Types e.g. **Statement; Question; Command; Exclamation**
- Using **Co-ordination** and **Subordinating conjunctions**
- Noun Phrases (Appositives)
- Combining sentences

