



Progression Document: Character description/development

Progression by Key Stage

EYFS

- Write about a character from a story you know or make up a new character.
- Give your character a name.
- Use familiar adjectives to describe your character e.g. friendly, scary.
- Have a 'goodie' or a 'baddie'
- Give your character a problem.

KS1

- Use simple similes to describe e.g. He was as fierce as a lion.
- Use power of 3 sentences to describe e.g. he was friendly, helpful and kind.
- Use adverbs e.g. she always laughed happily.
- Use simple noun phrases e.g. she had long, blonde hair.
- Use some alliteration e.g. she always had a gorgeous grin.

LKS2

- Show not tell – describe a character's emotions by showing the effect on their body e.g. a shiver shot up her spine.
- Use speech to reveal a character's emotions. Can be effective when this contrasts with internal thoughts/feelings. E.g. "I'm not scared," boasted Jim to his classmates, but inside he had a strange sinking feeling.
- Give your main character a hobby, interest or special talent e.g. nobody knew that Mildred actually understood how to speak four languages.
- Something they love, fear or hate e.g. Tim had always hated dogs ever since one bit him when he was a toddler.
- A distinctive feature e.g. he always wore sunglasses even if it wasn't sunny.
- Know your character's desire/wish or fear e.g. Gareth had always wanted a dragon

UKS2

- Use a name to suggest character traits e.g. Mr Durable / Mrs Meek.
- Use clauses to drop in details about the character e.g. The girl, crossing her fingers and breathing deeply, cautiously approached the two boys.
- Show (not tell) how characters' feel by what they do, say or think e.g. "NO!!! He yelled, snatching the telephone receiver.
- Use parenthesis to reveal (show not tell) a character's true feelings. Can be effective when outward appearances contrast with what's going on inside. Jack, quivering and shaking, reached for the dagger.
- Use other character's comments or reactions to reveal character traits e.g. 'She's angry again', whispered Kevin.
- Use a character who is hiding their feelings and discuss the contrast between outward words/ actions and internal thoughts e.g. Outwardly, he could seem unsure of himself, but inside he thought deeply and only ever acted if he was confident.
- Use past progressive forms to reveal additional information about a character's feelings/thoughts/wishes. E.g. James had been frightened of spiders ever since he found one in his bed when he was young.
- Use the subjunctive form to hypothesize about a character's situation/thoughts/feelings. E.g. If James was ever going to overcome his fear of spiders....., If Sarah was ever going to win the trophy, then....
- When discussing characters, use adverbials to create cohesion within paragraphs e.g. James had been frightened of spiders ever since he was young. Despite this...