



DESCRIBING A CHARACTER

Year 6 Lesson Plan 2

This lesson will look at creating a character that the reader/audience believes in.

Dave walked up the stairs.

This sentence creates no atmosphere. We cannot tell a thing about Dave, his state of mind, or the scene he is in. We can fix this by choosing a stronger verb for our purposes. It's a simple step that can have a big impact.

- Dave crept up the stairs.
- Dave fled up the stairs.
- Dave skipped up the stairs.
- Dave stomped up the stairs.

In each of these sentences you have a better idea of how Dave is feeling, and what kind of scene you are witnessing than you did in the first sentence.

If asked to do so you could pick out in which of these four sentences Dave is angry, happy, or scared, and in which he is trying not to wake his baby daughter.

However, one word does not in itself create an atmosphere

Characterisation

TOP TIP:

Think about people you know when you're deciding which characters are needed in a scene to create your atmosphere.

Think about their mannerisms, physical features, body language, tone of voice and the energy they give out.

Show not tell

DO NOT write 'He felt scared/angry/sad/depressed.'

If I wanted to show that a character was angry and trying not to show it, you could write something like, 'she pressed her tongue hard against the roof of her mouth.'

What happens when a person is:

Frightened

Sad

Happy

Embarrassed



THE LOWRY



Discuss with your partner and feedback to class

Now try it with this person.
You can do this together on the board.
Again, this can be single words or phrases.
Use the question stems to help you.

Next, use the word bank to add details about what is happening creating the right mood.

Where could this be taking place?

Could you introduce a character?

Are YOU the character?



THE LOWRY



Now try it with the person and dog,
who can feature in your story.

Again, this can be single words or phrases.
Use the question stems to help you.

Next, use a word bank to add details
about what is happening creating the right mood.

Where could this be taking place?

Could you introduce a character?

Are YOU the character?





