

SC1: Once Upon a Time

Character Development for Short Stories: physical description

We all know how to describe people. But to be a great writer, the physical features you write about should tell me about the character's personality as well as their appearance.

What are the names of the famous books?

rdol fo teh nsigR: by J.R.R. Tolkien (page 274):

"The face of Elrond was ageless, neither old nor young, though in it was written the memory of many things both glad and sorrowful. His hair was dark as the shadows of twilight, and upon it was set a circlet of silver; his eyes were grey as a clear evening, and in them was a light like the light of stars."

What do we learn about the character from this description?

hTe guenHr mGeas by Suzanne Collins (page 98):

"She's the twelve-year-old, the one who reminded me so of Prim in stature. Up close she looks about ten. She has bright, dark eyes and satiny brown skin and stands tilted up on her toes with arms slightly extended to her sides, as if ready to take wing at the slightest sound. It's impossible not to think of a bird."

What do we learn about the character from this description?

You're So Vain, Carly Simon

You
Like you
Your hat
Your scarf, it was
You had one
And gavotte
And all the girls dreamed that
They'd be, and
Chorus
You're so vain
You probably think this song is about you
You're so vain,
I'll bet you think this song is about you
Don't you?
Don't you?

(correct the spelling in verse below)

Oh, you had me severel years ago
When I was still naeve
Well, you said that we made such a pretty pear
And that you wood never leave
But you give away the things you loved
And won of them was me
I had some dreams, they were clouds in my coffeee
Clouds in my coffee, and

Chorus

Well I hear you(go) to Saratoga
And your horse, naturally,(win)
Then you(fly) your Learjet up to Nova Scotia
To see a/the total eclipse of a/the sun
Well, you're where you should be all the time
And when you're not, you're with some underworld spy
Or a/the wife of a/the close friend,
Wife of a/the close friend, and
Chorus

Word clouds to describe the character in the song:

Character quality



Evidence from the song



My Project:

Now draw or write a description of your character:

With a partner, interview your character. Do it spontaneously! Remember try to make your character unique and complex – not clichéd and stereotypical.

What is your character's job or are they a child?

How does your character:-speak? (slowly, loudly, with an accent) (what does this say about them?)

Where do they live? How is their house/apartment decorated? (what does this say about them?)

What do they eat? Drink? (what does this say about them?)

How do they spend their free time? (what does this say about them?)

What difficulties have they faced in their life? What are their fears? (what does this say about them?)

What have they achieved in their life? What are their dreams? (what does this say about them?)

Now add more information to your character profile above.