



KS3 English Language Fiction Writing

Introducing Characters

Read these character descriptions from works of literature. What do you learn about the characters here? How are the descriptions effective? Clue: don't just look at what is said, but at what is **implied**.

Description	What do we learn?
<p>'Tomes was a small man, thin as a stick and with the complexion of a tallow candle, and a permanent cold, which caused him to sniff every twenty seconds, for which reason he was confined to a cubby hole in an outer lobby, where he kept ledgers and received visitors, with an air of suffering and melancholy that put them in mind of Last Wills and Testaments'</p> <p>The Woman in Black by Susan Hill</p>	
<p>'I thought he was dead. He was sitting with his legs stretched out, and his head tipped back against the wall. He was covered in dust and webs like everything else and his face was thin and pale. Dead bluebottles were scattered on his hair and shoulders.</p> <p>I shone the torch on his white face and black suit.'</p> <p>Skellig by David Almond</p>	
<p>'She was Mother's aunt, but always insisted we call her "Grandma" because she thought Great Aunt made her sound old and crotchety, which she always was. We hadn't liked her before she moved in – as much on account of her moustache as anything else – and we liked her even less now that she had. We all knew her story: how she'd worked up at the Big House for the Colonel for years as a housekeeper, and how, for some reason, the Colonel's wife couldn't stand her.'</p> <p>Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo</p>	