

Topic: Generic novel study

Writing and evaluating a character

Today you will:

- ▶ compile a description of a character
- ▶ write an evaluation of a character.

Resources

Text

Your chosen novel

Find and prepare

Sheet 13 — Evaluate character

Key terms

adverb, characterisation, complex sentence, evaluate, language features, noun groups, simile, starting point of a sentence, verb group

For definitions and explanations of terms, please see the [Glossary](#).

Lesson

Note

In this lesson, you will describe a character from your chosen novel and evaluate how well the author has portrayed him or her. You should choose a character who will play an important role in your alternative novel ending.

Compile a description of a character

1. Use the following chart to write notes describing a main character in your chosen novel.

What is the character's name?	
What does the character look like?	

What kind of personal qualities or character traits does the character have? For example, is your character kind, strong, brave, friendly, helpful, or perhaps menacing, angry, wicked or hot-tempered?	
What relationships does your character have with other characters in the novel?	
How does your character behave? For example, what would your character do when facing danger or threatening someone?	

2. Refer to your notes above to write a detailed description (at least six sentences) of the character you selected from your novel. Remember to use the text structures and language features you have learned about in previous lessons.

Include some or all of the following information:

- physical appearance
- behaviours, thoughts and actions
- relationships with other characters
- character traits
- how this character acted when facing danger or a dilemma
- how this character acted when helping someone.

3. Re-read your description. Does it include:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| complex sentences | similes, metaphors and personification |
| precise vocabulary | variety of sentence starters |
| noun groups | adverbs? |
| verb/verb groups | |

Write an evaluation of a character

To evaluate means to judge.



4. Follow these directions to complete **Sheet 13** — [Evaluate character](#).

Start your response like this:

I think (author's name) portrayal of the character of (character's name) was very well done/not well done because ...

Then add at least two different examples of text structures and language features the author used to create the character. An example about the Wartypus would be:

The Wartypus is a large monster with bad breath. I know this because the author uses the precise verb 'lumbered' to describe how he moves and a simile about his breath being like a week-old bin.

Now mention if there are things you would like to know about the character that are not included in the book. Consider:

- Do you know what the character looks like?
- Do you know how the character acts?
- Did the character behave as you expected?

For your conclusion, sum up whether or not you think the author created a strong character and give reasons to support your answer.

Now that you have carefully considered your character and the language the author uses to create them, you are ready to write an alternative final chapter for your chosen novel. In future lessons, you will plan, draft, edit and publish your chapter.

