

Physical appearance, Action, Inner thoughts, Reactions, Speech

Harry Potter – JK Rowling

“Harry had always been small and skinny for his age... Harry had a thin face, knobbly knees, black hair and bright green eyes. He wore round glasses held together with a lot of cellotape because of all the times Dudley had punched him in the nose. The only thing Harry liked about his appearance was a very thin scar on his forehead which was shaped like a bolt of lightning.”

Body

Face

Hair

Special features

Anything else....

What is the overall impression of Harry created by the writer?

Mrs.Pratchett- Boy - Roald Dahl

Her name was Mrs. Pratchett. She was a small, skinny old hag with a moustache on her upper lip and a mouth as sour as a green gooseberry. She never smiled. She never welcomed us when we went in. By far the most loathsome thing about Mrs. Pratchett was the filth that clung about her. Her apron was grey and greasy. Her blouse had bits of breakfast all over it, toast crumbs and tea stains and splotches of dried egg yolk. It was her hands, however, that disturbed us most. They were disgusting. They were black with dirt and grime. They looked as though they had been putting lumps of coal on the fire all day long. The mere sight of her grimy right hand with its black fingernails digging an ounce of Chocolate Fudge out of the jar would have caused a starving tramp to go running from the shop.

Body

Face

Clothes

Special features

Use of figurative language to create character:

What is the overall impression of Mrs. Pratchett created by the writer?

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling – Hagrid (page 8):

"If the motorcycle was huge, it was nothing to the man sitting astride it. He was twice as tall as a normal man and at least five times as wide. He looked simply too big to be allowed, and so wild — long tangles of bushy black hair and beard hid most of his face, he had hands the size of trash can lids, and his feet in their leather boots were like baby dolphins."

The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman - Lord Asriel (page 12):

"Lord Asriel was a tall man with powerful shoulders, a fierce dark face, and eyes that seemed to flash and glitter with savage laughter. It was a face to be dominated by, or to fight: never a face to patronize or pity. All his movements were large and perfectly balanced, like those of a wild animal, and when he appeared in a room like this, he seemed a wild animal held in a cage too small for it."

Mr. Bounderby – Hard Times – Charles Dickens

'He was a rich man: banker, merchant, manufacturer, and what not. A big, loud man, with a stare, and a metallic laugh. A man made out of coarse material, which seemed to have been stretched to make so much of him... A man who was always proclaiming, through that brassy speaking-trumpet of a voice of his, his old ignorance and his old poverty. A man who was the Bully of humility.' (p. 18)

From our reading of these famous characters, come up with 4 success criteria that we will use when creating our own characters.

Now using what we have learned about creating physical character, fill in the blanks:

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams (page 11):

"He was not _____, his features were _____ but not conspicuously _____. His hair was _____ and _____ and _____. His skin seemed to be _____. There was something _____ about him, but it was difficult to say what it was. Perhaps it was that _____ and when you talked to him for any length of time _____ . Perhaps it was that he _____ and _____."

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams – Ford Prefect (p11)

"He was not conspicuously tall, his features were striking but not conspicuously handsome. His hair was wiry and gingerish and brushed backward from the temples. His skin seemed to be pulled backward from the nose. There was something very slightly odd about him, but it was difficult to say what it was. Perhaps it was that his eyes didn't seem to blink often enough and when you talked to him for any length of time your eyes began involuntarily to water on his behalf. Perhaps it was that he smiled slightly too broadly and gave people the unnerving impression that he was about to go for their neck."