

Monday 29th June 2020

Literacy – Character Description

The Chupacabra

Today we are going to explore a character description about a mythical creature called a **Chupacabra**.

We are going to look at the text in detail using our inference skills and determining whether some statements within the text are facts or opinions.




First read the character description on the first few slides.

The Chupacabra

Lurking upon the misty moors, obscured by tooth-shaped boulders, lives the Dreaming Chupacabra. Standing at only 3 feet tall, at a distance it is often mistaken for a child but up close its steel-grey, wart-ridden skin leaves no doubt. Due to its allergy to sunlight, these creatures are nocturnal and prefer to sleep during the day and for some periods in the summer they can sleep for up to 15 hours. Because of its thick, rubbery hide, the creature is well protected against the cold and prefers cool, damp temperatures.






Round, saucer eyes stare unblinkingly whilst pointed ears protrude from the top of its head. They have impeccable hearing like bats and they can listen for a range of 1 mile in any direction. Upon its head, wisps of matted hair grow in sporadic clumps which look like tufts of grass and reveal patches of pale, peeling skin. Some have pug noses; others have ugly snouts that hook round towards their hairy chins. Thin lips open into a wide toothless smile from which a black tongue resides. Bony shoulders lead into long, dangling arms that fall past its knobbly knees.

Although small in height, this agile creature can run very fast (up to 20mph) for extended periods of time ; it is particularly good at moving swiftly over marshes and bog-mosses due to its wide, splayed feet. Its razor-sharp claws are trowels which they use in order to burrow into hillsides, creating vast warrens underground, allowing them to move about the moorland easily.





Preferring to live in groups, they carry each other if they get tired and protect their young inside a small pouch. Because they are afraid of heights, they will never venture up into the trees so they prefer to have their flat feet on the ground. Even though these creatures look quite outlandish, they are not harmful to humans and due to their lack of teeth, they are strictly vegetarian. Surprisingly, they gain sufficient nutrients from sucking the moisture from plants such as lush ferns and arum lilies.

Often quite mischievous, these creatures like to play pranks in order to entertain themselves and they particularly enjoy teasing unsuspecting tourists - the younger and more innocent the better! From blocking countryside footpaths to making rustling sounds in the hedgerows, they feed off a human's nervous energy. Watching lost, frustrated families try to navigate their way through the monotonous moorlands offers them hours of endless entertainment.



Fact or opinion?

Character descriptions can contain both facts and opinions.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A fact is something you can prove to be either true or false.• You <u>cannot change</u> a fact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An opinion is how a person or thing feels about something.• You <u>can change</u> an opinion.
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Let's have a look at facts and opinions in this paragraph from the text... Your first task is to decide if the statements are fact or opinion.

Round, saucer eyes stare unblinkingly whilst pointed ears protrude from the top of its head. They have impeccable hearing like bats and they can listen for a range of 1 mile in any direction. Upon its head, wisps of matted hair grow in sporadic clumps which look like tufts of grass and reveal patches of pale, peeling skin. Some have pug noses; others have ugly snouts that hook round towards their hairy chins. Thin lips open into a wide toothless smile from which a black tongue resides. Bony shoulders lead into long, dangling arms that fall past its knobbly knees.

	Fact	Opinion
Pointed ears that protrude from the top of its head.		
Exemplary hearing.		
Wisps of matted hair, which look like tufts of grass.		
Patches of pale, peeling skin.		

Often quite mischievous, these creatures like to play pranks in order to entertain themselves and they particularly enjoy teasing unsuspecting tourists - the younger and more innocent the better! From blocking countryside footpaths to making rustling sounds in the hedgerows, they feed off a human's nervous energy. Watching lost, frustrated families try to navigate their way through the monotonous moorlands offers them hours of endless entertainment.

Task 2

Now I would like us to explore our character description further by using our inference skills as some of the description about the chupacabra are not facts given but the details are implied (shown but not told).

Answer this question by reading the paragraph above and find evidence in the text to support your answer.

What evidence from the text suggests that the Dreaming Chupacabra can often get up to no good?



Now answer the questions below using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Answer the following questions:

1. What evidence in the text suggests that the Dreaming Chupacabra doesn't like to be seen?
2. Why do you think people might find the Dreaming Chupacabra scary to look at? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.
3. How do you know a Dreaming Chupacabra is quite athletic?