

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Literacy – Character Description

## The Chupacabra

Today, we are going to be investigating the features of a character description.




# What are the key features of a character description?

## Key Features

- Physical & Emotional characteristics (appearance/personality)
- Commas for clarity
- Expanded noun phrases
- Coordinating and subordinating conjunctions
- Subordinate clauses
- Figurative language
- Fronted adverbial phrases

You can see how some of these features have been included in our character description on the next slide.






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.

Expanded noun phrases

Figurative language (similes and metaphors)

Subordinating conjunctions



Now it's your turn. I would like you to read the text and see if you can find some of the features of character descriptions within the text and write them in your books.

1. Find and copy two examples of expanded noun phrases in the second paragraph.
2. Identify and example of each of the following types of figurative language
  - a) a simile (compares using like or as)
  - b) a metaphor (compares something to something else with similar characteristics)
  - c) a alliteration (words that start with the same initial sound)
3. Read the following sentences and identify the fronted adverbials.

Upon its head, wisps of matted hair grow in sporadic clumps which look like tufts of grass and reveal patches of pale peeling skin.

Lurking upon the misty moors, obscured by tooth-shaped boulders, lives the Dreaming Chupacabra.


4. Draw a picture of what you imagine the chupacabra to look like.

Read the character description on the next 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.






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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.

