

OLD MAN

Wk2 - Scholarship - Writing

YOUNG

**BRINGING CHARACTERS TO LIFE**

GIRL

MISCHIEV

UNIVERSAL

Through  
BOY

Detail and Depth

CAN BE APPLIED

EVERYWHERE

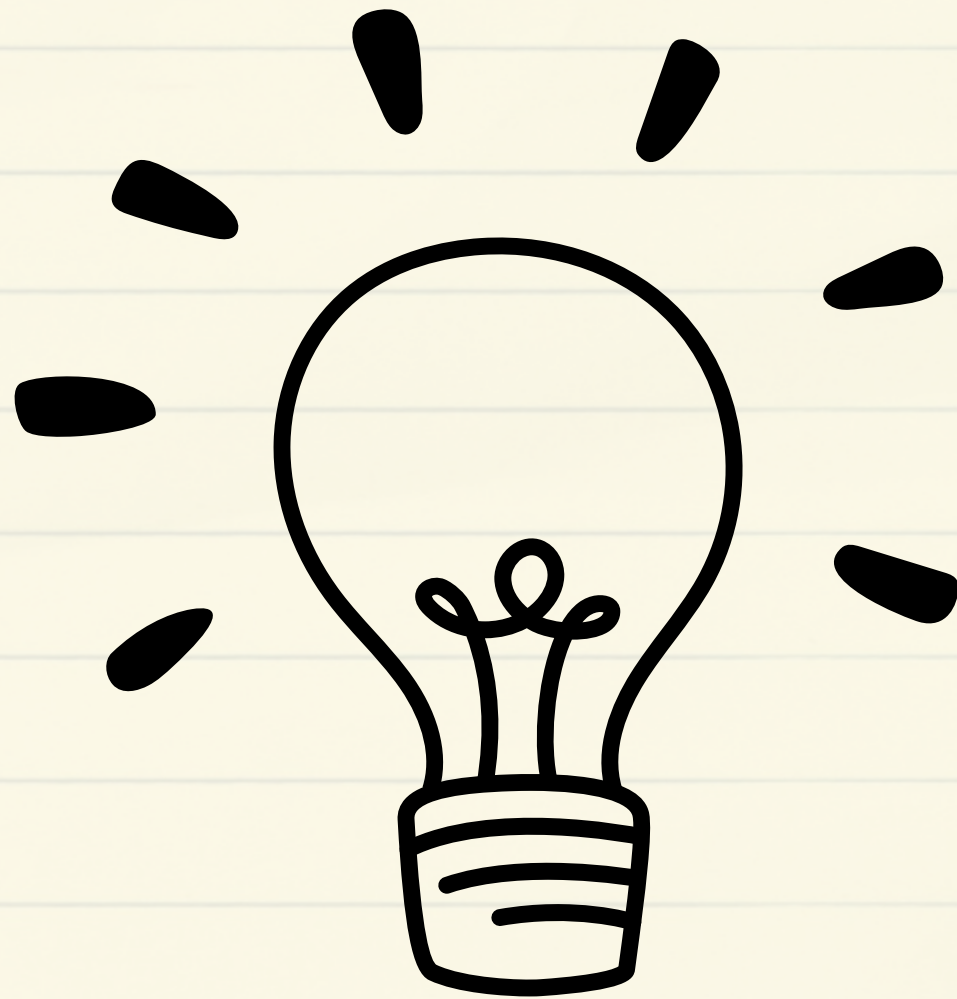


3/4 strong characters  
memorised





# THE POWER OF CHARACTERISATION



- Characters are the heart and soul of any narrative.
- Through characterisation, you create individuals that readers connect with.
- You can craft descriptions that reveal personality, emotions, and motivations; making your characters unforgettable.



# ELEMENTS OF CHARACTERISATION

- **Physical Appearance:** Looks, posture, and body language
- **Outfits and Accessories:** Clothing and items that reflect personality, background, or circumstances
- **Internal Thoughts and Emotions:** Insights into a character's mind and motivations
- **Actions and Reactions:** Behaviour patterns that showcase personality and development

Body reactions

STORY STARTERS

MALE AND FEMALE



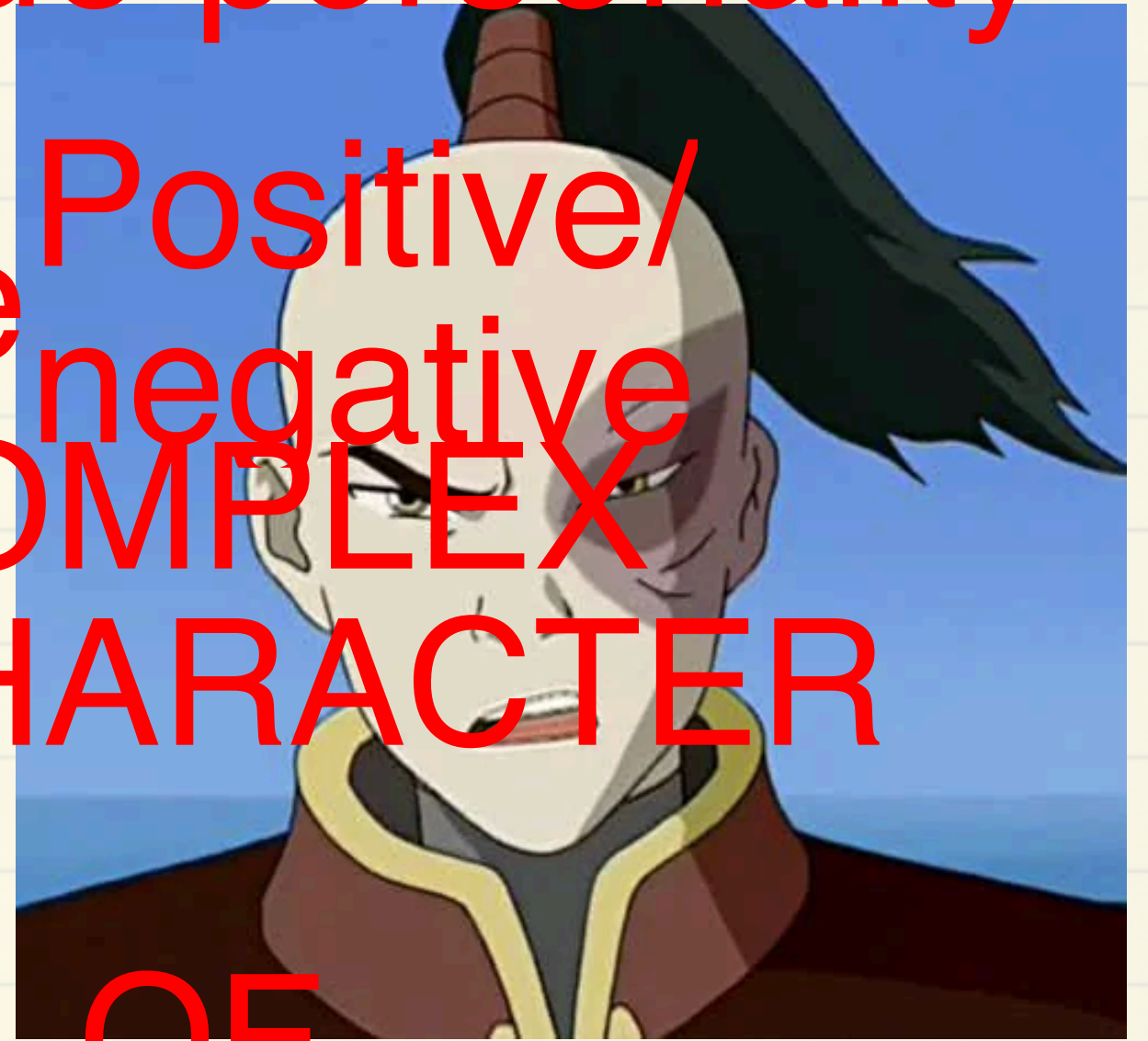


# OLD YOUNG

## EXEMPLARS – PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

### Example 1:

"The angry red scar dominated the right side of his face, pulling at his eye into a permanent glare. His dark hair was shorn close except for a neat topknot, and despite his youth, tension lined his mouth as if he held back constant words of frustration."



Specific- unique personality

- small tattoo of a rose just beneath his left cheekbone

Positive/negative

COMPLEX CHARACTER

Yellowed teeth, golden tooth  
Crippling, wrinkled

Shiny ebony

FULL OF

Tuxedo, perfect bowtie

CONTRADICTIONS



CONFUSE AND

EXEMPLARS

MYSTIFY THE MARKER

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

IMAGINATION & EXTREME-POP

Example 2:

"Bark-like ridges formed intricate patterns across his towering frame, while moss-green growths softened his wooden shoulders. His large eyes held an innocent warmth that contrasted with his imposing height, and tiny leaves sprouted from the crevices in his broad face, swaying gently with each movement."

BIG/SMALL

Not npc

BFG



TOUGH/SOFTness



# EXEMPLARS – PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

## Example 3:

"His bright blue fur caught the dim light of the pizzeria, the synthetic material showing signs of loving wear around his rotund belly and floppy ears. Behind his red bowtie, gears whirred softly as he moved his blocky head, glass eyes reflecting a perpetually cheerful expression."



AMETHYST PURPLE



# BODY REACTIONS – THE LANGUAGE OF PHYSICALITY

Body reactions reveal a character's emotional state without relying on dialogue.

## Techniques:

- Use precise, evocative verbs to describe movements
- Show how body language shifts with emotional states
- Create contrast between outward appearance and inner feelings
- Connect physical reactions to character history and personality

WALKING  
SPRINTING

LOWER LIP  
SHIVERED/  
QUAKED,  
CHARRED.  
SCABBED  
DRIED  
SKIN - SLOWLY  
CRACKED  
OPEN TO  
GRAVITY OF  
THE SITUATION





# EXEMPLARS – BODY REACTIONS

## Example 1:

"She stood rigid among the other teenagers, her face a carefully crafted mask of indifference. But when her sister's name echoed across the square, her nails dug crescents into her palms, and her voice cracked on the first syllable of volunteering."

NAILS LEFT WHITE  
IMPRINTS ON HER  
PALM

WHITES OF HER NAILS  
SHOWED UNDER (FEAR)

EXTREME PULSE/  
PRESSURE OF THE

SITUATION





# EXEMPLARS – BODY REACTIONS

## Example 2:

MEMORISE

ADAPT

"His large eyes grew wider at the glint of gold, bony fingers twitching involuntarily against the cave floor. Each breath became a shallow gasp, his emaciated frame trembling as he fought between crawling forward and shrinking back, throat working constantly as if trying to swallow something precious."

---





# EXEMPLARS – BODY REACTIONS

## Example 3:

"Her gloved hands twisted together as voices grew louder outside her door, frost creeping from beneath her feet despite her measured breathing. When someone finally knocked, she pressed herself against the far wall, shoulders hunched and fingers splayed wide as if trying to hold something back."









# EXEMPLARS – OUTFITS AND ACCESSORIES

## Example 1:

"Tarnished rings adorned every finger, each one telling a silent story of past adventures and narrow escapes. His once-fine coat had been patched with exotic fabrics from a dozen ports, while trinkets and charms clinked softly in his salt-stiffened dreadlocks."





# EXEMPLARS – OUTFITS AND ACCESSORIES

## Example 2:

"His grey robes were travel-worn but dignified, their flowing sleeves marked with faint traces of ash and starlight. The gnarled wooden staff in his weathered hands seemed to pulse with a subtle inner light, while a simple silver scarf held back his untamed beard."





# EXEMPLARS – OUTFITS AND ACCESSORIES

## Example 3:

"Her standard-issue military tank top was sweat-stained and practical, matching the utilitarian cargo pants criss-crossed with weapon holsters. The worn combat boots and fingerless gloves spoke of countless hours of training, while a pair of dark sunglasses hung ready at her collar, hiding eyes that never stopped scanning for threats."





# INTERNAL THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS

A character's inner landscape shapes their story as much as their actions.

## Techniques:

- Use sensory details to ground emotional experiences
- Show thought patterns that reveal deeper motivations
- Create contrast between internal and external reactions
- Connect present thoughts to past experiences





# EXEMPLARS – INTERNAL THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS

## Example 1:

"Looking at the boy's green eyes was like being struck by lightning each time, every glance unleashing an avalanche of guilt and grief and love so ancient it had calcified into something harder than bone. He forced his face into its usual stern mask, letting old bitterness coat his tongue like armor."





# EXEMPLARS – INTERNAL THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS

## Example 2:

"As he poured the tea with practiced grace, memories of shared cups with his son floated like leaves in his mind – some bitter, most sweet, all precious. The familiar scent of jasmine brought both peace and pain, each sip a reminder of wisdom earned at too high a price."





# EXEMPLARS – INTERNAL THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS

## Example 3:

"The simple sight of her children twisted her heart into impossible shapes, each laugh echoing with possibilities that never were and never could be. She wrapped her arms around herself, trying to hold together the pieces of a dream that kept slipping through her fingers like smoke."





# CRAFTING MULTI-DIMENSIONAL CHARACTERS

Complex characters embody natural contradictions and growth.

## Techniques:

- Balance strengths with realistic weaknesses
- Show how past experiences influence present choices
- Reveal character through relationships and conflicts
- Create meaningful internal and external struggles





# EXEMPLARS – MULTI-DIMENSIONAL CHARACTERS

## Example 1:

"In his personal gardens, he tended to each plant with surprising gentleness, massive fingers delicately pruning leaves and testing soil with the same precision he used to reshape worlds. Yet as he nurtured life in this quiet space, the weight of his brutal calculus pressed against his mind – the paradox of a man who would destroy half of all living things to save the other half."





# EXEMPLARS – MULTI-DIMENSIONAL CHARACTERS

## Example 2:

"She cultivated an aura of terrifying magnificence, her horned silhouette and razor-sharp cheekbones designed to strike fear into those who crossed her path. Yet alone in the shadows with the infant princess, her stern features would soften imperceptibly, even while she pretended to despise this small human who stirred something long-buried in her heart."





# EXEMPLARS – MULTI-DIMENSIONAL CHARACTERS

## Example 3:

"He carried himself with a warrior's deadly grace, each calculated movement a reminder of his artificial origins and ultimate purpose as the world's most powerful weapon. Yet in quiet moments, his crimson eyes would soften at the sight of a clear blue sky, memories of a single human girl's kindness warring with his engineered instincts for vengeance and destruction."

