

English - Character Description



The children will now write a character description about their favourite book character. The children will need a copy of the book their favourite book character is in and may like to plan their character description using the character description planning template included in this pack.

By giving the children the choice about who they want to write about, and that they have practised this type of writing before, our hope is that the children will feel confident and engaged to work more independently from last week.

*This is the sequence we would have followed in school and we completely understand that the home environment is different to the school environment. Therefore, you may like to change this to suit your child.

Here are a few suggestions;

- scribe your child's planning thoughts for them but ask them to write the character description
- your child could type their character description
- complete lesson 1 and 2 (planning appearance and personality) on day 1, and write the introduction on day 2, appearance on day 3, personality on day 4 and the conclusion on day 5 therefore spreading the writing over 4 days
- You may feel it will work better for your child to complete this by planning what to write and writing it down on the same day and completing this over 4 days e.g. day 1 discuss and write introduction, day 2 discuss and write appearance, day 3 discuss and write personality and day 4 discuss and write conclusion
- Please remember quality over quantity e.g. you could ask your child to only write one sentence about appearance but it must include a conjunction

Lesson 1 - Children choose their favourite book character and verbally answer book character questions. The more the children talk about their book character and the main events in the story, the more confident they will feel to write their character description.

Children will write words to describe their favourite book characters appearance on the outside of the body template. Please encourage your child to use expanded noun phrases. The children will add to this plan tomorrow and then use it when writing their character description later in the week.



This week you will be writing a character description about your favourite book character.

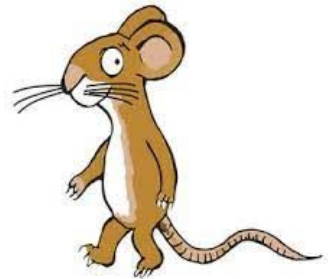
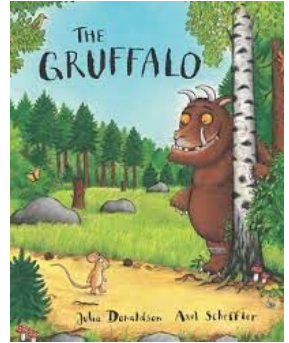
Let's recap introduction, appearance and personality!

Mouse

My favourite book character is Mouse who is a clever character in the story 'The Gruffalo'. The book was written by Julia Donaldson and it is illustrated by the talented Axel Scheffler. The story follows Mouse as he travels through the woods and tricks the nasty monster called The Gruffalo that is trying to eat him.

Mouse is a little, wild creature that lives in an English wood. He has a long, pink tail and big, round ears that stick up. He has large, bright eyes that are always looking around the forest. His long, black whiskers grow out of his cheeks and they twitch when he is happy.

Mouse is a clever character because he can think of clever plans and trick all the nasty animals that try to eat him. Even though the animals want to eat him Mouse always remains cheerful and keeps smiling all the time. When the other animals try to eat him, Mouse is brave and does not run away.



Now it's your turn!

Go and find your favourite book with your favourite book character.
Then use the questions to talk to someone about your favourite book character.



What is the name of your book and who is the author?

What is the name of your favourite character and why?

Is your character the main character in the story? What do they do?

What does your character look like?

How would you describe your favourite characters personality? Why is that?

Would you like to be your character? Why/why not?

Would other people like to read about this character? Why?

Now you are going to write expanded noun phrases to describe the appearance of your favourite book character. Do you remember that appearance means what something or someone looks like? This time I have decided to describe the Gruffalo.

★ ★ noun
,

long, hard horn

purple, pointed prickles
which are all the way down
his back



large, orange eyes

enormous, poisonous wart
which is at the end of his
nose

grey, knobbly knees

gigantic, flat feet

sharp, pointy claws

Remember you can extend your expanded noun phrases by using which or that.

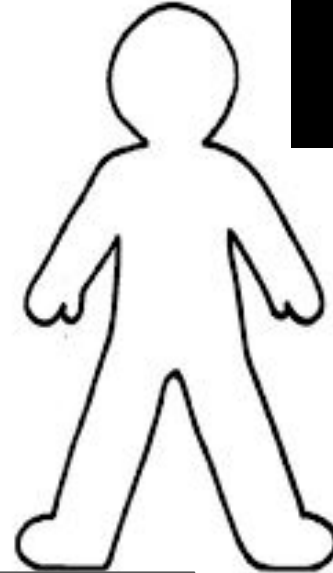
Look at a picture of your favourite book character.
We are going to describe their appearance. Talk to
someone how you would describe each of these
parts -

hair
eyes
smile
clothes

If you have chosen an animal, you might describe
other parts -

tail
feet
claws

Remember to use expanded noun phrases when you
tell someone what they look like!



Challenge
Extend your
expanded noun
phrases by using
which or that.

Activity: Write at least 4 expanded noun phrases around your character template to describe their appearance.

Remember you can describe -

hair
eyes
smile
clothes

If you have chosen an animal, you might describe other parts -

tail
feet
claws



Lesson 2 - Children describe their favourite book characters personality using events in the story. Children can record their thinking inside their character or they might find it better to record these in sentences under the picture of their character.



Yesterday we described our favourite book characters appearance using expanded noun phrases.

long, hard horn

purple, pointed prickles
which are all the way down
his back



large, orange eyes

enormous , poisonous wart
which is at the end of his
nose

grey, knobbly knees

sharp, pointy claws

gigantic, flat feet

Today we will think about 3 events that will prove what your character's personality is like.

Can you remember what personality means?

Personality means the qualities that make you different from others.

Let's think back to Flat Stanley.
How did we describe his personality?



Wordbank
adventurous
helpful
cheerful
thoughtful
brave
funny
independent
likeable
caring
imaginative
clever
confident

Now I am going to describe the Gruffalo's personality.



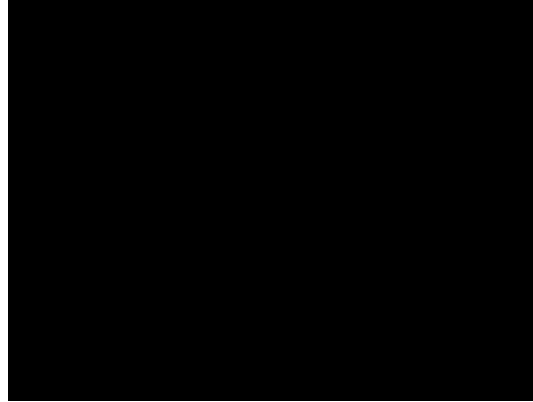
The Gruffalo is fierce because he likes to eat other animals.

The Gruffalo is not very clever because he is easily tricked.

The other animals are scared of him and run away when they see him because he is terrifying.

Now it's your turn to describe your book character's personality and choose three events in the story to explain why you think that.

You could use the wordbank to help you.



Wordbank
adventurous
helpful
cheerful
thoughtful
brave
funny
independent
likeable
caring
imaginative
clever
confident
fierce
terrifying

Activity: On your planning sheet, describe your book character's personality and choose three events in the story to explain why you think that.

You could use the wordbank to help you.



The Gruffalo is fierce because he likes to eat other animals.

The Gruffalo is not very clever because he is easily tricked.



The other animals are scared of him and run away when they see him because he is terrifying.

Wordbank

helpful
cheerful
thoughtful
brave
funny
independent
likeable
caring
imaginative
clever
confident
fierce
terrifying

Lesson 3 - Writing an introduction for their favourite book character.

Today the children are going to start writing about their favourite book character. You may want to glue a picture or ask your child to draw a picture of their favourite book character at the top of their piece of paper.

The children answer questions about their book to help them practise saying aloud what they will write.

Who is your favourite character?

What is the title of the book?

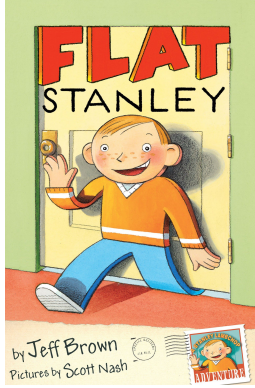
Who is the author of the book?

Who is the illustrator of the book?

Who is the story about (the main character) and what important thing happens to their character in the story?

Activity - Children to write their introduction to their favourite book character.

Today we are going to write an introduction. Look at the introduction we wrote for Flat Stanley last week. What does it tell the reader?



The title of this book is Flat Stanley. He is the main character. The author of Flat Stanley is Jeff Brown. The illustrator of Flat Stanley is Scott Nash.

The funny, fictional story is about a young, cheerful boy called Stanley who becomes as flat as a pancake when a heavy, wooden bulletin board falls on top of him when he is sleeping.



The name of
the book.

The name of
the main
character.

The name of
the author.

The title of this book is **Flat Stanley**. He is
the **main character**. The author of Flat
Stanley is **Jeff Brown**. The illustrator of
Flat Stanley is **Scott Nash**.

The name
of the
illustrator.

1 sentence
to say what
the story
is about.

**The funny, fictional story is about a young,
cheerful boy called Stanley who becomes as
flat as a pancake when a heavy, wooden
bulletin board falls on top of him when he is
sleeping.**



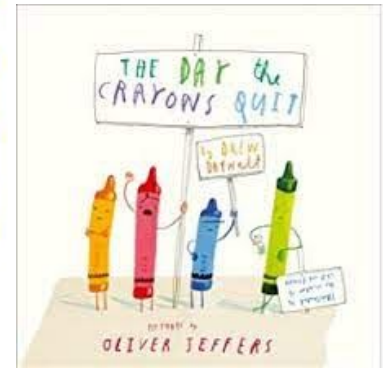
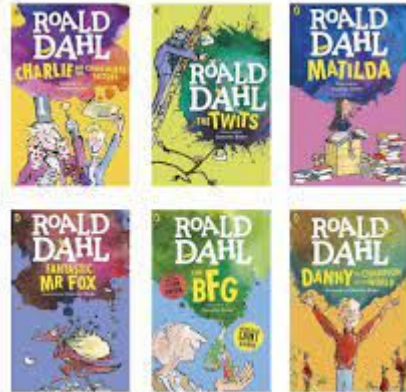
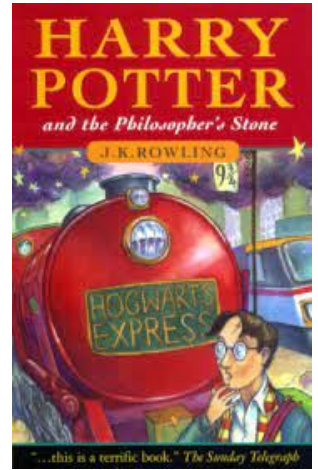
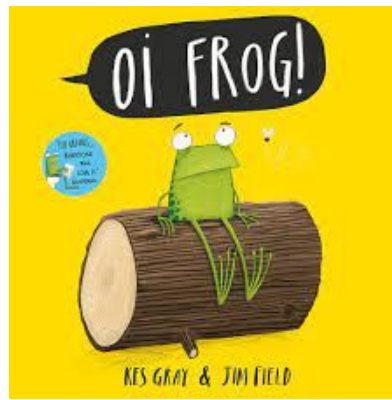
Look at the front cover of your book.
Tell someone the answers to these
questions. It will help if you answer these
questions in sentences.

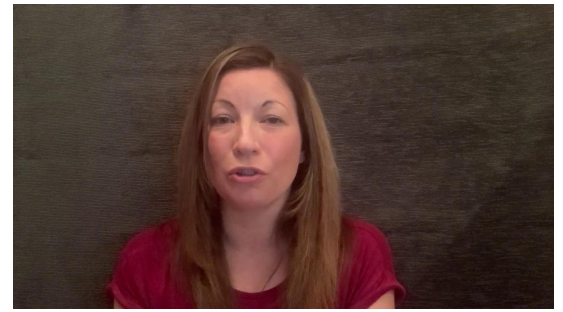
Who is your favourite book character?

What is the title of the book?

Who is the author?

Who is the illustrator?





Now you need to think of **1 sentence** to explain what the story is about! This can be quite tricky but I know you can do it!

Tell someone who the story is about (the main character) and what important thing happens to them in the story.

Here is our sentence from last week to help you:

The funny, fictional story is about a young, cheerful boy called Stanley who becomes as flat as a pancake when a heavy, wooden bulletin board falls on top of him when he is sleeping.

Activity: Write an introduction for your character description.

When you are writing your introduction answer these questions:

Who is your favourite book character?

What is the title of the book?

Who is the author of the book?

Who is the illustrator of the book?

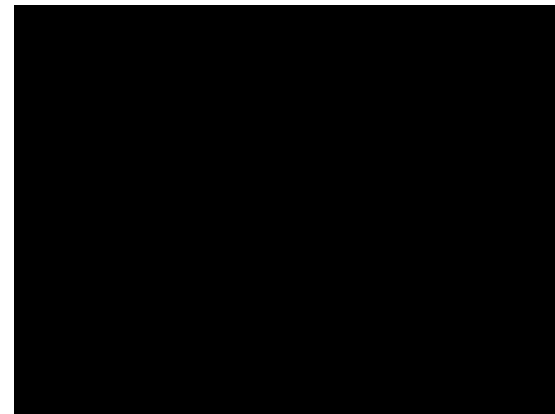
Who is the story about and what important thing happens to them in the story?

Remember

Write in sentences using capital letters and full stops. You might like to use your coloured pencils to help you.

Capital letters for people's names e.g Jeff Brown

Challenge: Can you include expanded noun phrases e.g. amazing, clever author, funny, fictional story



Lesson 4 - Writing about their favourite book character's personality and appearance

Today we are going to continue writing our character description about your favourite book character. You can continue this on from the introduction that you wrote in the previous lesson.

The children look back at their 'Role on the Wall' plans with their words for their favourite book character's appearance and personality.

How can we change these notes into sentences?

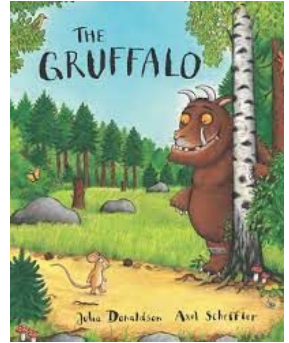
What makes a good sentence?

Activity - Children to write their paragraphs to describe their favourite book character's personality and appearance using their notes.

Here are paragraphs about appearance and personality. What do they tell the reader?

Mouse is a little, wild creature that lives in an English wood. He has a long, pink tail and big, round ears that stick up. He has large, bright eyes that are always looking around the forest. His long, black whiskers grow out of his cheeks and they twitch when he is happy.

Mouse is a clever character because he can think of clever plans and trick all the nasty animals that try to eat him. Even though the animals want to eat him Mouse always remains cheerful and keeps smiling all the time. When the other animals try to eat him Mouse is brave and does not run away.



Let's see what information there is in these paragraphs.

Description of
the
character's
ears.

Mouse is a **little, wild creature** that lives in an English wood. He has a **long, pink tail** and **big, round ears** that stick up. He has **large, bright eyes** that are always looking around the forest. His **long, black whiskers** grow out of his cheeks and they twitch when he is happy.

Description of
the
character's
tail.

Examples
of when
those
personality
traits are
shown.

Mouse is a **clever** character because he can think of clever plans and trick all the nasty animals that try to eat him. Even though the animals want to eat him Mouse always remains **cheerful** and keeps smiling all the time. When the other animals try to eat him Mouse is **brave** and does not run away.

Description of
the
character's
whiskers.

Personality
traits.



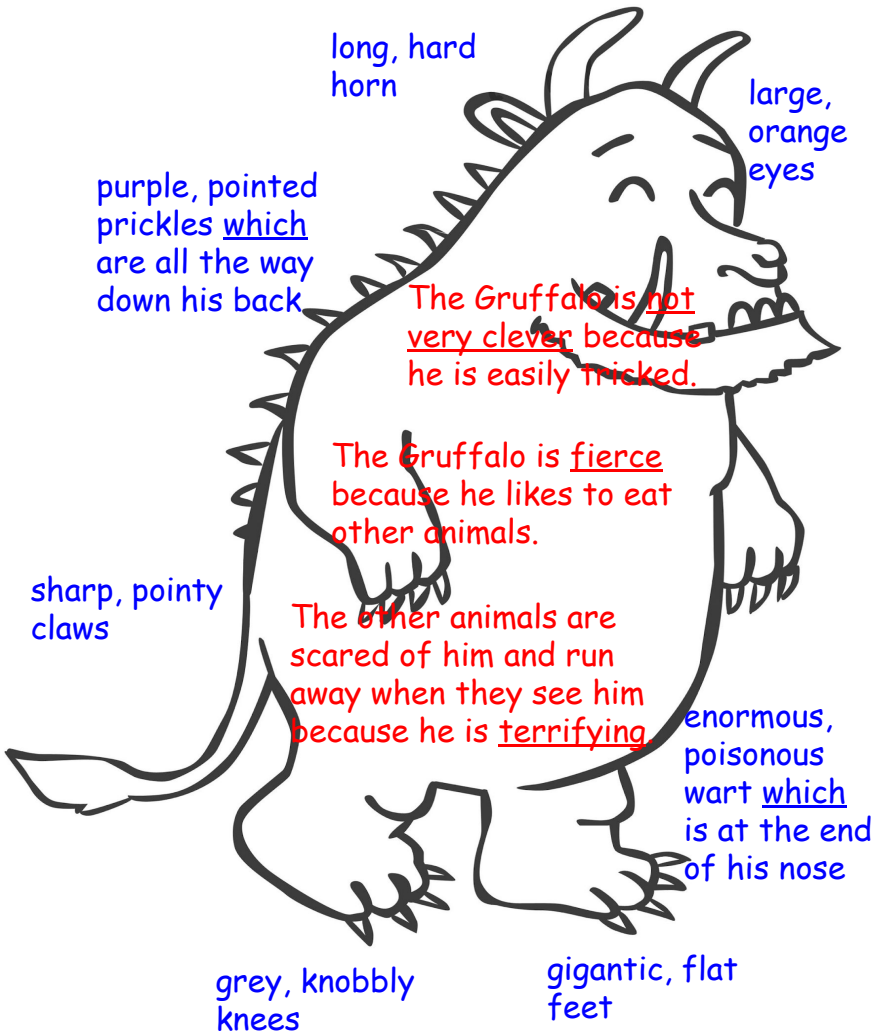
Look back at your 'Role on the Wall' from lessons 1 and 2. Hopefully you have a picture of your favourite book character with 4 words to describe their appearance and 3 words to describe their personality linked to events in your story.

You may have extended adjectives into expanded noun phrases or perhaps used 'which' or 'that' to extend your sentences too. You may have even explained where a personality trait was shown using 'because'.

Tell someone the answers to these questions. It will help if you answer these questions in full sentences.

- What is your favourite character's hair like?
- What are your favourite character's eyes like?
- What is your favourite character's smile like?
- What are your favourite character's clothes like?

- If you have chosen an animal:
- What is your favourite character's tail like?
 - What are your favourite character's feet like?
 - What are your favourite character's claws like?



Do you remember that helpful way to lay out your character description?

I'll give you some clues...

It is a collection of sentences.

They are used in writing to **introduce new sections** of a story, characters or pieces of information.

They help readers to enjoy what has been written because they **break text up** into easy-to-read sections.

The word begins with the sound /p/

Have you remembered the word?

Paragraphs!

You wrote your first **paragraph** yesterday for your introduction for your favourite book character. Your introduction was a collection of sentences that told the reader the title, author, illustrator, main character and main idea of the story.

Top Tip!

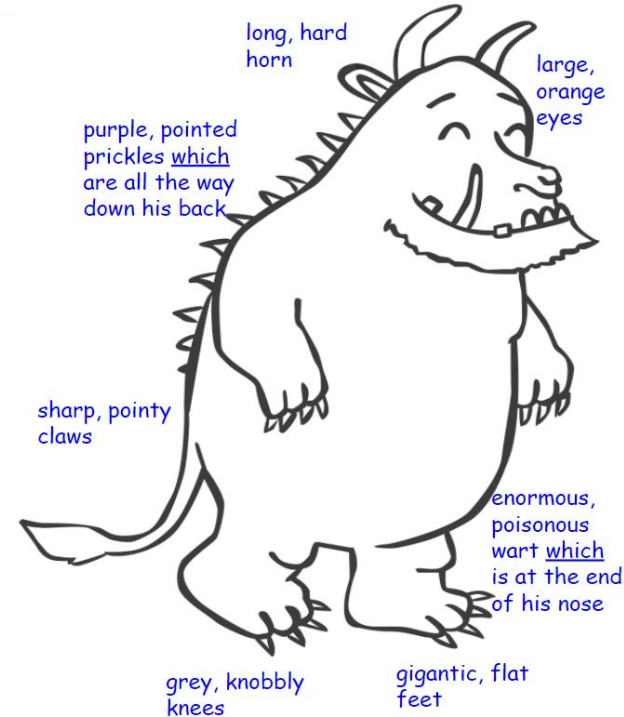
Remember paragraphs are useful to you as the writer, as well as the reader. They help you to organise your ideas and can make your writing flow better, so it is easier to read.

Character Description

Paragraph 1 Introduction

My favourite book character is The Gruffalo who is a terrifying character in the story 'The Gruffalo'. This book was written by Julia Donaldson and it is illustrated by the talented Axel Scheffler. The story follows a character called Mouse as he travels through the woods and tricks the fierce creature called The Gruffalo who is wanting to eat him!

Before you start your second paragraph about your favourite character's appearance, look back at your notes and use your word bank to help you. Remember, the appearance words are the words written around the outside of your favourite character's picture.



What makes good writing?

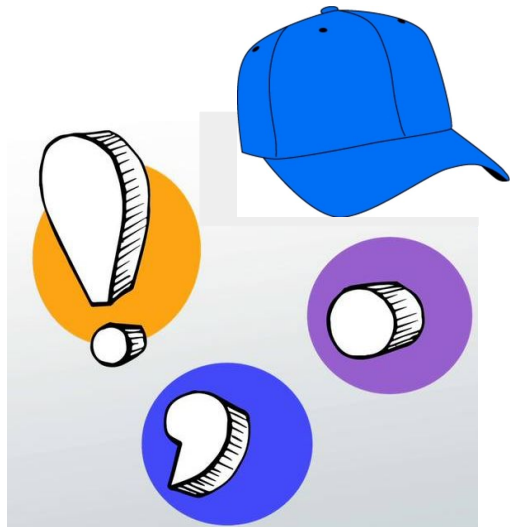
Full stops

Exclamation marks

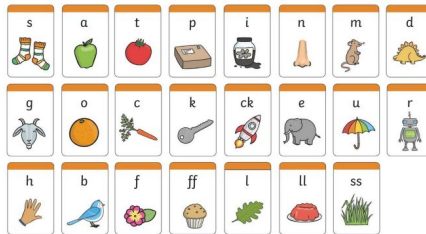
Expanded noun phrases

Spelling

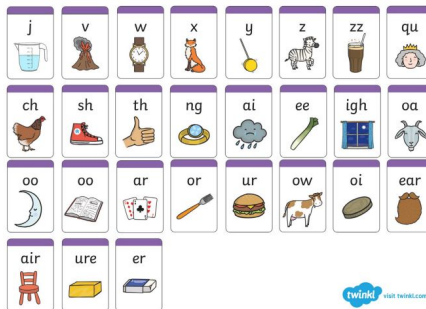
Capital letters



Sounding out words



Phase 3 Sound Mat



Neat, cursive handwriting

Aa Bb Cc Dd

Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii

Jj Kk Ll Mm

Nn Oo Pp Qq

Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv

Ww Xx Yy Zz

Conjunctions



Finger spaces



Year 1

the they one
a be once
do he ask
to me friend
today she school
of we put
said no push
says go so full
are by house
were my our
was
is here
his there
has where
I love
you come
your some

Year 2

door gold plant clothes
floor hold path busy
poor told bath people
because every hour water
find great move again
kind break prove half
mind steak improve money
behind pretty sure Mr
child beautiful sugar Mrs
children after eye parents
wild fast could Christmas
climb last should everybody
most past would even
has only father who
both class whole
old grass any
cold pass many

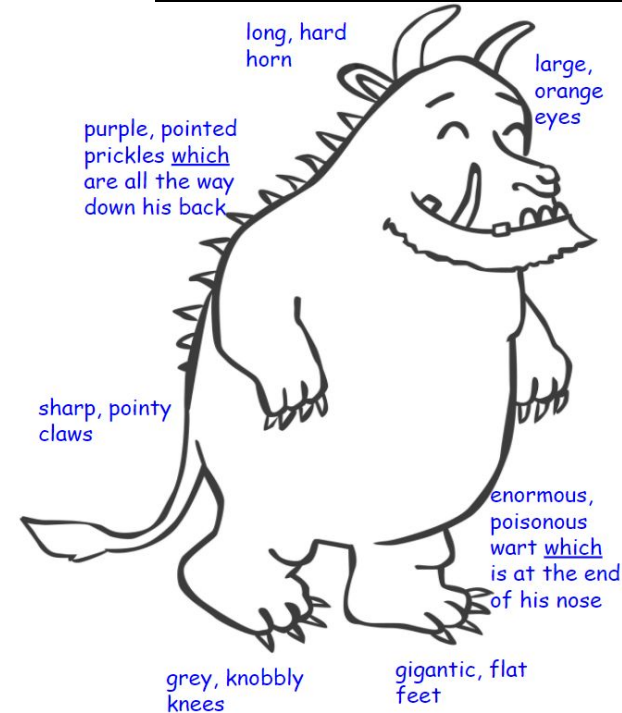
We now need to use our notes and change them into sentences.
Do you remember all the different skills we use when we are writing?

Here's a checklist to remind you before you start:

choose one of your notes to write about
think about what to say and how to write it
form your letters correctly
use the correct punctuation and grammar
spell words correctly
check your writing so it all makes sense

For example, I'm going to choose my note "sharp, pointy claws" to start with. I will think about how to put this into a sentence and then I'll say it out loud...**The Gruffalo has sharp, pointy claws**. That's a sentence! I could extend that sentence to include another note. **The Gruffalo has sharp, pointy claws which are on the end of his gigantic, flat feet**. Then you can choose your next note to turn into a sentence. Remember to say it out loud before writing! **The Gruffalo has an enormous, poisonous wart which is at the end of his nose and purple prickles which are all the way down his back.**

Have a go with your "Role on the Wall" notes and write your own paragraph about your favourite character's appearance before we move on! Feel free to keep looking back at the checklist as you write to support you.



Again, we now need to use our notes and change them into sentences.

Here's the checklist to remind you of our different skills whilst writing:

- choose one of your notes to write about
- think about what to say and how to write it
- form your letters correctly
- use the correct punctuation and grammar
- spell words correctly
- check your writing so it all makes sense

Before you start your third paragraph about your favourite character's personality, look back at your notes and use your word bank to help you. Remember, the personality words are the words written on the inside of your favourite character's picture.

For example, I'm going to choose my note "fierce" to start with. I will think about how to put this into a sentence and then I'll say it out loud. Remember to use the conjunction 'because' to link your note to an event in the story.. **The Gruffalo is fierce because he likes to eat other animals.** That's a sentence! I could make that sentence even better by including an expanded noun phrase. **The Gruffalo is fierce because he likes to eat other interesting, furry animals.** Then you can choose your next note to turn into a sentence. Remember to say it out loud before writing! **The Gruffalo is not very clever because he is easily tricked.**

Have a go with your "Role on the Wall" notes and write your own paragraph about your favourite character's personality. Remember to leave a line after your previous paragraph. Feel free to keep looking back at the checklist as you write to support you.



Lesson 5 - Writing a conclusion for their favourite book character description

Today we are going to continue writing our character description about our favourite book character. You can continue this on from the introduction, appearance and personality that you have written in the previous 2 lessons.

The children will answer these questions:

Do you like the character? Why?

Is the character similar to another book character you know?

Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why?

Challenge

Can you ask a question to end your conclusion?

Activity - Children to write their conclusion and proofread their work.

Today we you are going to write a conclusion. This means you are going to write an ending for your character description.

Here are some questions you could answer.

Do you like the character? Why?

Is the character similar to another book character you know?

Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why?

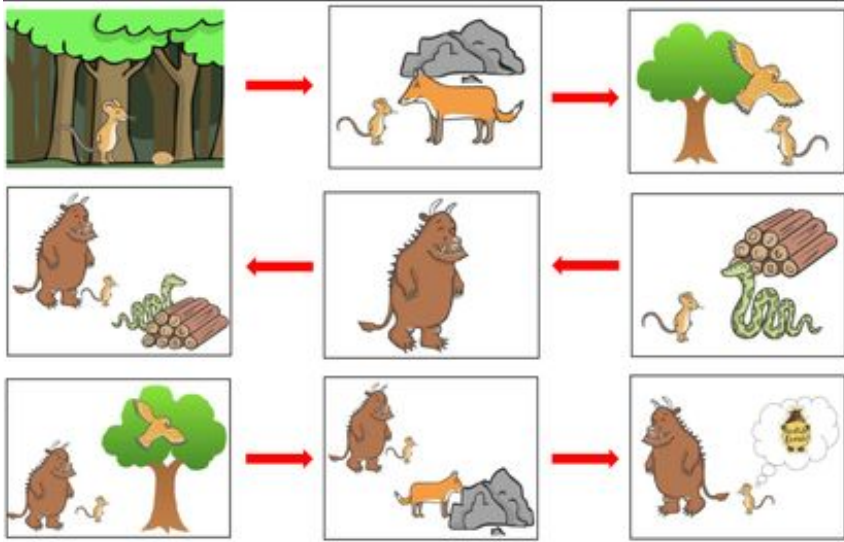
Challenge

Can you ask a question to end your conclusion?

As you work your way through the questions on the next 4 slides you might jot down some notes or ideas that will help you when you write your conclusion paragraph.



Do you like the character? Why? Explain your answer out loud.



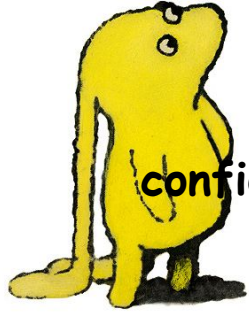
Wordbank

helpful
cheerful
thoughtful
brave
funny
independent
likeable
caring
imaginative
clever
confident
fierce
terrifying

I like the character The Gruffalo **because** he is fierce which scares Mouse's predators away.

I like the character The Gruffalo **because** he is quite gullible so he really believes that the creatures in the wood are scared of Mouse!

Is the character similar to another book character you know? Discuss out loud.



confident



clever



helpful



independent



brave



likeable

thoughtful



caring



imaginative

funny



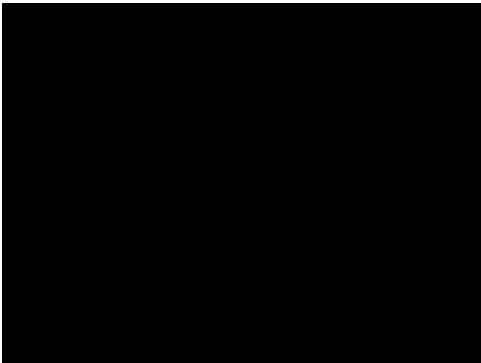
cheerful

Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why?

Imagine that you are trying to persuade your friend to read this story.

Can you think of three really good reasons?

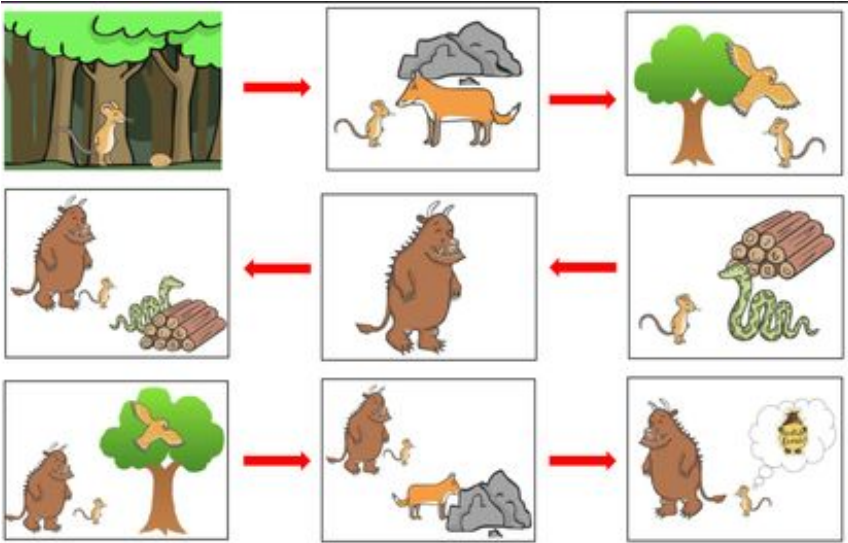
- You could use '**because**' to explain your reason



Does it make you want to read on
to find out what happens next?

Is it funny? When?

Is it exciting? When?



Challenge

Can you ask a question to end your conclusion?

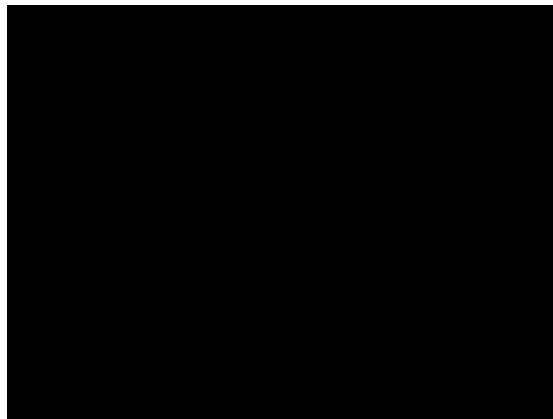
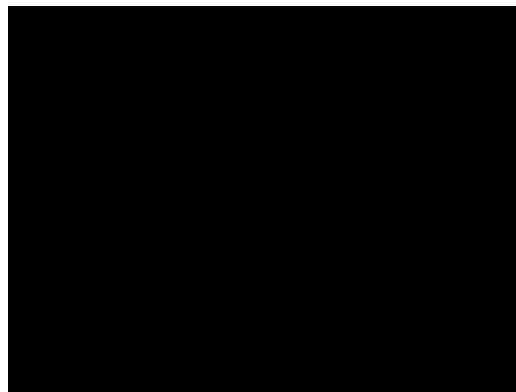
Questions are sentences which ask something. When we write a **question**, we should put a **question mark (?)** at the end of the sentence.

You might like to watch this short video again to remind yourself about **question marks**.

Can you think of a question that you could ask at the end of your conclusion?

Here's mine:

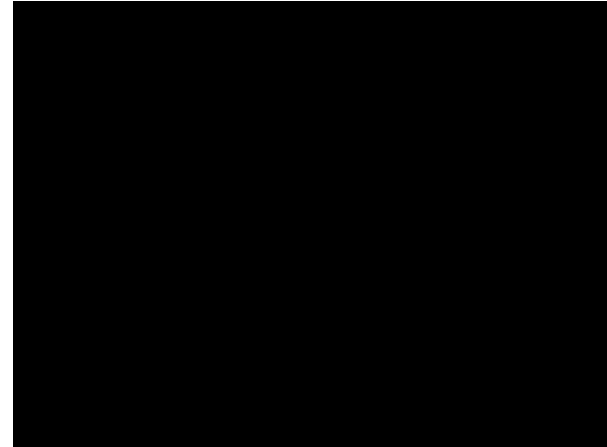
Would you be afraid of The Gruffalo?



Let's look at the conclusion I wrote last week.

Paragraph
4
Conclusion

I really enjoyed reading Flat Stanley with my class and I know my friends would love it too! I like the character Flat Stanley because he is brave and independent which sets him off on adventures. He is also cheerful and helpful which makes others like him. He is similar to the character Mouse from The Gruffalo because he is also brave when he walks through the forest. The character Harry Potter is similar to Flat Stanley too because he is independent and goes on adventures! I would recommend this book to a friend because it is exciting when he is trying to catch the sneak thieves. If I woke up one morning and I was flat my favourite thing to do would be to slide under doors. What adventure would you go on if you were flat?



Before you upload your character description, **proofread** it.

Do you remember what proofreading is?

Proofreading is when you check your writing to make sure that it makes sense.

You read what you have written carefully and look out for any mistakes.

Mistakes can be things like:

- missing or extra punctuation
- spelling mistakes
- incorrect tenses
- missing or extra words

You might want to watch this video again.

Now over to you. Proof-read your Character Description and make any revisions necessary. E.g. Have you used capital letters at the start of each sentence and also for character's names?

