



Characterisation in Clockwork

How do writers craft character?

Ingredients of a character

What ingredients make up a character?

- Physical aspects
 - Height, eyes, hair, clothing, how they move...
- Character traits
 - Kind or empathetic, imposing and confident, nervous but brave, humorous etc.
- Their actions and the choices they make
 - Do they make selfish choices?
 - Do they do things for others?
 - Are they adventurous in their actions?



The writer's craft

- All these things tell us about the character, but not about how the character is created.
- Writers use lots of different techniques to build and craft a character – just like the clockmakers use lots of pieces to create the lifelike nature of the clockwork figures.
- The clockmaker's tools are cogs and springs; the writer's tools are words and sentences; these tools help the writer to create character and tone.



How has Philip Pullman crafted the character of Gretl?

Dazzled by the moonlight, Gretl blinked and rubbed her eyes. And there was Prince Florian, with the very last of his clockwork life, singing like a nightingale.

‘Oh! You poor cold thing! He’s fastened you so tightly I can’t undo the bolts – oh, that was wicked! He was going to leave you here and run away, I’m sure. What’s the matter with you, Prince Florian? I’m sure you’d tell me if you could. I think you’re ill, that’s what the trouble is. I think you need warming up. You’re too cold, but that’s hardly surprising, seeing what they’ve done with you. Never mind! If I can’t get you down, I’ll stay up here with you. I can wrap my cloak around us both, you’ll see. We’re better off up here in any case, if you as me. The things that have been going on! You’d never believe it! I won’t tell you now, because you wouldn’t go to sleep. I’ll tell you in the morning, I promise. Are you comfortable, Prince Florian? You don’t have to speak if you don’t want to; you can just nod.’

Prince Florian nodded, and Gretl tucked her cloak around them, and held the little boy in her arms as she went to sleep. The last thing she thought was: He *is* getting warmer, I’m sure; I can feel it!

- Sentence types
 - Declarative
 - Interrogative
 - Exclamatory
 - Imperative
- Sentence lengths
- Punctuation
- Choice of nouns/verbs/adjectives/adverbs
- Semantic fields
- Connotations
- Language techniques

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- Exclamation points: reflect an emotional reaction to seeing the Prince.
- Interrogative sentences: these emphasise the care she feels towards him
- Use of contractions: informal tone, reflects her youth and sincerity

How has Philip Pullman crafted the character of Gretl?

- Philip Pullman has crafted the character of Gretl to be empathetic. This is conveyed through his use of **exclamatory sentences**, when Gretl reacts with shock and surprise when she finds Prince Florian all alone; it shows that she cares for him.
- Pullman has used **interrogative sentences** to create a caring side to Gretl. By asking Florian about his needs, it shows that she is concerned about him and wishes him the best, leading the reader to believe that Gretl is a kind, thoughtful and caring character within the text.
- Pullman demonstrates Gretl's youthfulness by using **contractions instead of more formal phrasing**. This informal language echoes her youthfulness and also shows her innocence: she isn't trying to impress anyone with big words, she is just being naturally herself.

Over to you!

- In groups, look at the extract your teachers will give you.
- Identify the tools that Philip Pullman has used to craft the characters of Dr Kalmenius, Fritz or Karl.
- Highlight and label them.



Next Steps!

- Answer the question ‘**How has Philip Pullman presented the character of _____**’, filling in the blank with the character you’ve been working on.
- Remember to tell us what **tools or techniques** Pullman has used, and what those techniques ***helped to create*** for the character.

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