

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This lesson will help you to:

- understand and analyse how writers introduce characters
- develop fictional characters in your writing
- understand how writers develop and use setting and atmosphere.



▲ The things that you always carry around with you can reveal your character.

INTRODUCING A CHARACTER

CREATING CHARACTER, ATMOSPHERE AND EMOTION

Creating characters is not an easy job. Good writers carefully reveal aspects of a character's personality through a combination of description, behaviour and dialogue.

ACTIVITY 1

A04

A05

SKILLS CREATIVITY, INNOVATION

▼ WHAT'S IN YOUR POCKET?

The best way to approach character is to put yourself in someone else's shoes or, in this case, pocket!

Create an imaginary character. Think of a few details about them such as their name, age and job. Now imagine which objects they might carry in their pocket or bag. Write down or draw at least three of these and put them into an envelope. You have now created your character's 'pocket' or 'bag'.

Swap envelopes with a partner. Remove the items from your partner's envelope, one item at a time. Try to imagine what kind of person would own these items. Share your ideas with your partner.

Write a short paragraph about the character that your partner created, using some of the items in their 'pocket' to develop the character.

It is often said that first impressions are the most important, and this is often true of fictional characters. The following extract from Christopher Isherwood's novel *Goodbye to Berlin* introduces the memorable and quirky character Sally Bowles.

▼ FROM *GOODBYE TO BERLIN* BY CHRISTOPHER ISHERWOOD

A few minutes later, Sally herself arrived.

"Am I terribly late, Fritz darling?"

"Only half of an hour, I suppose", Fritz drawled, beaming with proprietary pleasure. "May I introduce Mr Isherwood – Miss Bowles? Mr Isherwood is commonly known as Chris."

"I'm not," I said. "Fritz is about the only person who's ever called me Chris in my life."

Sally laughed. She was dressed in black silk, with a small cape over her shoulders and a little cap like a page-boy's stuck jauntily on one side of her head: