

KEY POINT

The introduction of a new fictional character is a key moment. The language you choose lays the foundations for filling out the character later.

"Do you mind if I use your telephone, sweet?"

"Sure. Go right ahead." Fritz caught my eye. "Come into the other room, Chris. I want to show you something." He was evidently longing to hear my first impressions of Sally, his new acquisition.

"For heaven's sake, don't leave me alone with this man!" she exclaimed. "Or he'll seduce me down the telephone. He's most terribly passionate."

As she dialed the number, I noticed that her finger-nails were painted emerald green, a colour unfortunately chosen, for it called attention to her hands, which were much stained by cigarette-smoking and as dirty as a little girl's. She was dark enough to be Fritz's sister. Her face was long and thin, powdered dead white. She had very large brown eyes which should have been darker, to match her hair and the pencil she used for her eyebrows.

"Hilloo," she cooed, pursing her brilliant cherry lips as though she were going to kiss the mouthpiece: "Ist das Du, mein Liebling?" Her mouth opened in a fatuously sweet smile. Fritz and I sat watching her, like a performance at the theatre.

ACTIVITY 2

A02

SKILLS

CREATIVITY, ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION

▲ BUILDING A SENSE OF CHARACTER

Read the extract from *Goodbye to Berlin*. How does Isherwood build up a vivid sense of character in this extract? Consider his use of colour, the use of direct speech and any descriptions using adjectives and adverbs. Write at least two Point-Evidence-Explain paragraphs about this.

ACTIVITY 3

A04

A05

SKILLS

ADAPTIVE LEARNING, CREATIVITY, INNOVATION

▲ CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Using the techniques that you have considered, write your own short, vivid character description that begins with the description of your character's shoes. You could choose to develop your character based on the character created in Activity 1 or start with a new idea.

CONSIDERING CHARACTER

Consider the following prompts to help extend your understanding of characters. You can apply this to the Anthology texts.

- **How they appear to others:** What kinds of words are used to describe their features, build and clothing? What does the writer want to suggest to the reader about the character's behaviour, attitude or interests?
- **What they do:** What can the reader guess about the characters from their actions and behaviour?
- **What they say:** Does the writer use direct speech? What does this tell you about what the character thinks, feels or is likely to do?