

LANGUAGE OF LITERATURE: CHARACTER

Use the following word lists to improve your sentence fluency through precise, active words specifically related to writing about and discussing characterization. Example: Conrad **defines** Marlowe early on through his **observations** not his **actions**, using Marlow as a **credible witness** to **express** Conrad's own criticisms of the sins of the European powers in Africa.

Nouns		Verbs		Adjectives		
actions	interlocutor	animate	impose	absorbed	emotional	pedantic
adjective	knowledge	argue	indicate	absurd	enigmatic	philosophical
adverb	limit(ations)	attribute	infer	aggressive	envious	physical
allusion	manners	capture	influence	aloof	essential	picky
analysis	measure	cause	inform	ambitious	ethical	plausible
antagonist	melancholy	challenges	infuse	amorous	exacting	poignant
archetype	mind	choose	inhabit	animated	exaggerated	predictable
argument	monologue	compare	inhibit	anxious	experienced	primary
aspects	motif	compose	inspire	apathetic	external	private
attire	motivation	concern	instill	archetypal	external	prolonged
attitude	motive(s)	conclude	interest	argumentative	feelings	proper
attribute	movement(s)	confirm	invent	arrogant	fictional	provincial
behavior	name	confound	investigate	awkward	flamboyant	provocative
capacity	narrator	confront	measure	banal	flat	public
caricature	noun(s)	construct	move	benign	formal	real
characteristic	object	contradict	observe	bitter	frantic	realistic
choice	observation	contrast	occupy	bored	free	reckless
concern(s)	observer	contribute	offer	capable	fretful	relevant
condition	paradox	control	poetry	carefree	garrulous	reliable
conflict	parody	converse	possess	careless	gargulous	round
consciousness	participant	convince	possess	cautious	idiosyncratic	scrupulous
contradiction	perceptions	declare	present	central	impoverished	secondary
contrast	personality	define	prolong	churlish	independent	self-involved
convention	philosophy	demonstrate	provide	coherent	indirect	sincere
conversation	plot	deny	react	comic	individuated	sloppy
conviction	position	derive	reduce	compassionate	inherent	solid
credibility	presence	describe	reflects	compatible	inner	spiritual
definition	protagonist	desire	refuse	compelling	intellectual	spontaneous
depiction	qualities	details	remain	conceited	intelligent	static
depth	reason	develop	render	conniving	interior	stereotypical
description	reference	discover	render	conscientious	internal	stock
desire	relationship	distinguish	reply	conscious	ironic	style
despair	reliability	distract	represents	consistent	irrepressible	subordinate
destiny	reputation	elaborate	retain	convincing	irritable	substantial
development	role	elevate	reveal	curious	listless	subtle
device	satire	empathize	shape	deceitful	loquacious	surface
dialogue	senses	emphasize	show	deep	major	suspicious
diction	sensibility	epitomize	state	demure	manipulative	talkative
economy	skepticism	establishes	struggle	dependent	mature	testy
emotions	sketch	evoke	struggle	destined	memorable	thin
environment	soliloquy	expect	suggest	detached	mendacious	transparent
epitome	source	explain	suggests	detailed	minor	trivial
essence	spectator	explore	surmise	developed	moral	ubiquitous
ethos	speech	explore	surprise	devious	mythical	understated
expectations	stereotype	expose	sympathize	devoted	naive	uninvolved
experience	struggle(s)	express	talk	direct	naïve	unpredictable
expression	study	extend	think	dishonest	nervous	upright
factors	style	face	transform	distinct	noble	verbal
fate	symbol	favor	undergo	distinctive	obscure	vibrant
feelings	technique	force	values	dramatic	observant	vindictive
foil	theme	illuminate	witness	dynamic	omniscient	vivid
gestures	tone	illustrate		easygoing	opaque	welcoming
hero/heroine	traits			elegant	outgoing	wise
idiosyncrasies	type			elevated	patient	worried
illusion	values			eloquent		
implication	verb(s)					
individual	verisimilitude					
inquiry	will					
insight						
intention(s)						

Posted by Jim Burke on
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