

Characterization

the act of creating or developing a character

Indirect Characterization

D _____: _____

A _____: _____

D _____: _____

Examples of Description

“[H]is face had the distinguished lines of antique beauty, a Grecian nose and brow, the pale complexion of a woman, eyes of a blue so dark as to be almost black, eyes full of love, whose whites were as clear and fresh as those of a child. ... His short chin, curved but without abruptness, was of a matchless nobility. A sad, angelic smile hovered on his coral lips, that parted to reveal perfect teeth.”

(Lucien, from *Lost Illusions* by Honoré de Balzac)

What you secretly learn about Lucien:

“I stood exactly five and a half feet tall in my stockinged feet, and my shoulders, though they slope downward a little at the neck, were nicely in balance with my small neat frame. My features were regular, my teeth were in excellent condition (protruding only a smallish amount from the upper jaw), and my hair, which was an unusually brilliant ginger-red, grew thickly all over my scalp.”

(from “Georgy Porgy” by Roald Dahl)

What you secretly learn about Georgy:

“I could see her in my mind, long face and coffee-and-cream-colored skin. Her nose was broad but not so flat and her eyes were as round as some forest creature’s orbs. She always smiled just to see me. ...

My father was dimmer in my memory. Much darker than Mom, he was thick. Not fat but strong like a tree trunk. He had big hands and a giant’s laugh.”

(Mother and Father from *The Man in My Basement* by Walter Mosley)

What you secretly learn about mother:

What you secretly learn about father:

“He wore yellow short sleeves over a blue T-shirt, and brown trousers. His tennis shoes were the same blue as his shirt. He had no tie and the yellow shirt was open at the throat, showing a hairy pale neck over the top of the T-shirt collar. His head was oval and his chin came to a tip like the masks that I kept in their box on the windowsill next to my bed. His blue eyes were a perpetual shock, but there was no wonder or magic in the rest of his face.”

(Anniston Bennet from *The Man in My Basement* by Walter Mosley)

What you secretly learn about Anniston Bennet: