

L.O. Show emotions and qualities of characters by what they say and do.

This unit of English will be all about characterisation - the way in which we bring our characters to life by their words, appearance and actions.

Watch this short film clip, taken from a movie based on Charles Dickens' story *Oliver Twist*. Dickens was a Victorian writer who was a master of characterisation, often basing his characters and story events on his own personal experience, making them very real to his readers.



Here, we join Oliver in the workhouse at mealtime; having drawn the short string the night before, it has fallen to Oliver to be the one to ask for more food from Mr Bumble, the master of the workhouse.

Look carefully at how the two characters move, speak and react to each other. How do we know what they are feeling? How can we tell what sort of people they are?

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Your challenge is to write the scene in which Oliver has to ask Mr Bumble for more. Your focus should be on the actions and reactions of the two characters - how will your reader know what sort of person each one is, and how will you show (not tell) what they are feeling?

One possible starter:

*The bowl stared back at Oliver, all trace of the thin gruel gone. He knew it was time.*

