

Goblins and Faeries

Take a look at these characters, all from the imagination of artist Brian Froud, who specialises in goblins and forest faeries. How has he given us clues as to their personalities? What features do you notice? Today, we're going to bring them to life with a little bit of descriptive writing.



Activity 1. Make a list of any features that you can see e.g. hair, eye, nose, claw, toenails ...

List the features down the left-hand side of a page; it might help you to start at the top of a pictures and work your way down, so you don't miss any features – write as many **nouns** as you can.

<u>nouns</u>				
hair				
eye				
nose				
claw				
toenail				
↓				
↓				

Activity 2. Now think about how you might **describe** the features you've listed. You'll need some good **adjectives** to do this. Add the heading 'Adjectives' to the right of your 'Nouns' heading and write as many as you can think of, using the pictures to help.

e.g. wiry, bulbous, hooked, crooked, curved

You might want to add more than one adjective for each noun, and some adjectives could be used more than once.

<u>nouns</u>	<u>adjectives</u>			
hair	wiry	wild		
eye	bulbous	bloodshot		
nose	hooked	warty		
claw	gnarled	hooked		
toenail	curved	sharp		

Activity 3. Now look at your lists and try out adjective + noun combinations. Add a **determiner** (a, an, the, its, his, her) to create a **noun phrase**.

adjective **noun** **noun phrase combinations**

warty + nose its warty nose

wiry + hair her wiry hair

You might find that adjectives you've written next to some nouns may work well with other nouns. For example, from the list above, you could have 'his bulbous **nose**' as well as 'its bulbous **eyes**'. Generate lots of combinations – at this point, you don't need to worry about which ones sound 'good' or not – just come up with lots of ideas. Write them on a second page.

Activity 4. It's time to make some sentences with your phrases, so we'll need verbs for this. Add a third heading – '**verbs**' – and think of what each of the nouns could be doing. Again, you may think of more than verb for each noun e.g. an eye could stare, peer or blink.

<u>nouns</u>	<u>adjectives</u>		<u>verbs</u>	
hair	wiry	wild	coiled	
eye	bulbous	bloodshot	stared	
nose	hooked	warty	flared	
claw	gnarled	hooked	beckoned	
toenail	curved	sharp	tapped	

Activity 5. Before you create your sentences, let's consider how your actions might happen – we need some **adverbs**. Adverbs of manner (the 'how') often end in '-ly' e.g. *crazily, menacingly, slowly* but some can be adverbial phrases e.g. *like a spring, without a sound*

Add a final heading to your lists - '**adverbs**' – and generate one or more for each verb

<u>nouns</u>	<u>adjectives</u>		<u>verbs</u>	<u>adverbs</u>
hair	wiry	wild	coiled	<i>Like a spring</i>
eye	bulbous	bloodshot	stared	<i>ceaselessly</i>
nose	hooked	warty	flared	<i>slowly</i>
claw	gnarled	hooked	beckoned	<i>Without a sound</i>
toenail	curved	sharp	tapped	<i>menacingly</i>

Activity 6. It's time to get creative and raid your ideas lists to create some sentences. Look back at your noun phrases and add suitable verbs and adverbs from your word-bank.

e.g. *His wild hair coiled like a spring.*

Its gnarled claw beckoned without a sound.

If you feel confident, you could add a subordinate clause that starts with an 'ing' verb.

e.g. *The bloodshot eyes peered menacingly, searching the shadows.*

Now it's your turn; write at least five descriptive sentences about the goblins and faeries at the top of the page. Don't forget to punctuate your sentences accurately. Have fun and don't forget to share your work on Seesaw. Mr S and Mrs McK.