

Character Description

What does a good one look like?

“In walked His Majesty King Henry the Eighth of England. King Henry stood for a moment to let us all gaze on his glory. His jewels flashed in the candlelight, his golden clothes shimmered as if they were made of the sun. He was the tallest man in the room, the biggest, proudest, fiercest man in Europe. He loved to be flattered; everyone knew that. He put his head to one side and beamed at me so his fat cheeks bulged and his sparkling eyes disappeared into his head like currants in a pudding.”

Berlie Doherty, ‘Treason’

TOP TIPS:

- Pick out the key things you can see – choose vocabulary to make them stand out (accentuate them)
- Create a mood for the reader about the character – what’s his personality? Think of three adjectives: *majestic, enormous, self-indulgent*. How could you show, not tell these? (e.g. we know Henry is self-indulgent here because Berlie Doherty writes “his fat cheeks” and “his sparkling eyes” and “he loved to be flattered” – she gives us clues to SHOW not TELL us.)

Use the techniques to create your own character description

- What can you see in the picture of Anne Boleyn? Choose the four most important things about Anne which you will write about.
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
- Think of three adjectives to describe what you would like your reader to think of Anne’s character.
- For each of your adjectives, think of how you could SHOW, not TELL this to your reader – give them clues.



Adjective	How can I SHOW not TELL this characteristic?
1	
2	
3	

Now write your own character description of Anne Boleyn.

You should write at least five sentences.