

Treasure Island
Lesson 6
Week 7

Do Now!!! Is the statement Describe, Explain or Evaluate?
In the notes page of your planner write the letters A, B, C and D and at the side write whether the statement is a describe, explain or evaluate.

A - The chair has four wooden legs to make sure it is sturdy and balanced allowing it to be safe for many users.

A



B

B - It has four, darkly stained wooden legs

D

E - It successfully allows the user to feel comfortable whilst taking the weight off their feet

G - The chair is orange/red

C

The answers are on the next slide

Is the statement Describe, Explain or Evaluate? How many did you get right?

A - The chair has four wooden legs to make sure it is sturdy and balanced allowing it to be safe for many users.

A

Explain

Describe

B

B - It has four, darkly stained wooden legs

D

E - It successfully allows the user to feel comfortable whilst taking the weight off their feet

Evaluate

G - The chair is orange/red

C

Describe



Learning Intent

To develop a better understanding of character analysis and understand how the actor uses performance skills to create the character

Success Criteria

To be able to *describe* a character in Treasure Island

To be able to *explain* what you think about a character and why they appear a certain way to the audience

To be able to *analyse* the effectiveness of the actor's portrayal of a character (year 8 and 9 - making reference to the use of vocal and physical skills)

Last lesson we looked very carefully at the difference between Describe, Explain and Evaluate. Using this new information you will complete the analysis of the characters from Treasure Island. We have picked a scene for you to study in order to complete your analysis of Jim Hawkins or Long John Silver. During this scene, look carefully at the actors use of their physical and vocal skills to show the personality of the character as you have described. You must use an example of when this can be seen.

Extension - If you complete the describe, explain and analyse for these two characters you can challenge yourself to complete on for any other character, however, you will have to do this from memory as you will be unable to watch more of the play at this time.

Describe	Explain	Analyse
1 - Angry	Miss Trunchbull is always shouting at the children even if they <u>don't</u> say or do anything wrong. She gives them nasty punishments and enjoys making them feel uncomfortable.	The actor raises her voice to make it sound very loud when she shouts at the children. She also uses an aggressive tone of voice to make herself sound mean and snaps the words at them. When she speaks to the <u>children</u> she gets very close to them to make them feel intimidated by her invading their personal space and using her height to make them feel small. For example, when she talks to Amanda about her <u>pig-tails</u> she bends at the waist so she is face to face with Amanda and shouts at her before swinging her round by her pig-tails.
2 - Aggressive		
3 - Mean		

Physical Skills

Body Language
Facial Expression
Gesture
Eye Contact

Vocal Skills

Volume
Pitch
Pace
Tone
Intonation

Whilst watching the scene focus on the three words you have used to describe either Jim or Long John (it is up to you which one you want to focus on, it only needs to be one). Identify any evidence that shows that particular characteristic (something a character says or does) and make a note of it. Also look very carefully at how the actor uses their face, body and voice during these moments to make us understand the characteristics they are showing us.

For example, a scene might want us to understand a character is kind (*this is the **description***) so they do a nice deed for someone else (*this is the **explanation** of how we understand they are kind*) and as they do this the actor playing that character makes the choice to smile at the person they are helping (*this is the **analysis** of how the actor is using their physical and vocal skills*) which will make the audience think of them as a nicer, kinder person.

Describe	Explain	Analyse
1 - Angry	Miss Trunchbull is always shouting at the children even if they <u>don't</u> say or do anything wrong. She gives them nasty punishments and enjoys making them feel uncomfortable.	The actor raises her voice to make it sound very loud when she shouts at the children. She also uses an aggressive tone of voice to make herself sound mean and snaps the words at them. When she speaks to the <u>children</u> she gets very close to them to make them feel intimidated by her invading their personal space and using her height to make them feel small. For example, when she talks to Amanda about her <u>pig-tails</u> she bends at the waist so she is face to face with Amanda and shouts at her before swinging her round by her pig-tails.
2 - Aggressive		
3 - Mean		

Physical Skills

Body Language
Facial Expression
Gesture
Eye Contact

Vocal Skills

Volume
Pitch
Pace
Tone
Intonation

You want to make some notes that look like this...

Angry.

Always shouting at children even though they don't do anything wrong.

Actor makes the volume of her voice very loud and she gets very close to the other actor she is shouting at.

Aggressive.

Inappropriately punishes children if she doesn't like something they have done.

The actor has a facial expression that looks like she is enjoying it as she does it, a bit of a smile.

Mean.

She makes the children feel really uncomfortable on purpose.

Actor bends at the waist to come face to face with Amanda showing her using her body language to be intimidating.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=treasure+island+national+theatre+video&&view=detail&mid=F216236B3E732F3720FCF216236B3E732F3720FC&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dtreasure%2Bisland%2Bnational%2Btheatre%2Bvideo%26docid%3D607990184549026889%26mid%3DF21623683E732F3720F>

Watch the performance from 45-49 mins. This is the scene where Long John is teaching Jim how to navigate using the stars

In the same way as you did with the chair/desk, you are going to build a full and formal paragraph that combines the description, explanation and analysis of either Jim or Long John.

You will build it in the following way...

Take one of the words you used to **describe** the character and put it into a sentence. –

"I think that Miss Trunchbull is always angry."

Then look at what you wrote in the **explain** box that shows why you came to this conclusion and add that to the end, either as a full sentence or using a connective. –

"I think that Miss Trunchbull is always angry which we can tell because she is always shouting at the children even though they don't do anything wrong."

Describe	Explain	Analyse
1 - Angry	Miss Trunchbull is always shouting at the children even if they <u>don't</u> say or do anything wrong. She gives them nasty punishments and enjoys making them feel uncomfortable.	The actor raises her voice to make it sound very loud when she shouts at the children. She also uses an aggressive tone of voice to make herself sound mean and snaps the words at them.
2 - Aggressive		When she speaks to the children she gets very close to them to make them feel intimidated by her invading their personal space and using her height to make them feel small. For example, when she talks to Amanda about her <u>pig-tails</u> she bends at the waist so she is face to face with Amanda and shouts at her before swinging her round by her pig-tails.
3 - Mean		

Then look at your **analysis** and indicate what it is that the actor does to show this about the character effectively. Then again either as a new sentence or using a connective, add this on to the end –

"I think that Miss Trunchbull is always angry which we can tell because she is always shouting at the children even though they don't do anything wrong. To show the audience this the actor makes the volume of their voice very loud and she gets very close to the other actors she is shouting at."

Do this for all three of the describe words and try to use new information from the explain and analysis sections each time. By the end you should have a fully formed character analysis that looks something like this.

Character analysis of Miss Trunchbull from Matilda

"I think that Miss Trunchbull is always angry which we can tell because she is always shouting at children even though they don't do anything wrong. To show the audience this the actor makes the volume of her voice very loud and she gets very close to the other actor she is shouting at."

"Miss Trunchbull is also extremely aggressive. We see this in the inappropriate way that she punishes children if she doesn't like something they have done. When the actor playing her punishes the children she gives a little bit of a smile to show that her character is enjoying herself "

"We can see that Miss Trunchbull is mean because of the way she makes the children feel really uncomfortable on purpose. We see this when the actor playing her bends at the waist to come face to face with the actress playing Amanda. This shows her using her body to be intimidating. "

Read all three sections of your character analysis aloud one after the other and ask yourself...

Does it make sense?

(If someone were to read it, would they gain a good understanding of the character you have analysed?)

Does it read well?

(Does it flow and show a good grasp of written English)

Is there anything I could add to improve it?

(Make the improvements where necessary)