

Creating an impression

1. Firstly, read through the descriptions below which are all from characters in the novel and decide which description fits which character:

Bailey	'... bright red lips, bright pink hair (dyed, of course, and tied in a ponytail on top of her head) and the longest, thickest false eyelashes Bailey had ever seen.'
Monty	'... about eleven years old, thin, pale with large brown eyes. He was wearing a green anorak, white button-up shirt, open at the collar, baggy trousers and slippers. His hair was jet-black and very curly.'
Tiffany	'He was wearing baggy jeans (so baggy, in fact, that the waist was almost round to his knees, revealing the boxer shorts beneath), a black string vest, baseball cap (turned round the wrong way) and dark glasses.'
Skipper	'... eleven years old, had a round face, blue eyes, crewcut hair and – what many grown-ups described as – 'serious eyes'. He was wearing his school uniform: dove-grey blazer, white shirt, black and white striped tie, charcoal-grey trousers and black shoes.'
Levi Toot	'... he was wearing a baseball cap, black string vest, baggy T-shirt and sunglasses ... he was very, very short.'
Hip-Hop	'... was in his uniform too ... a green cap, green shoes, green socks, green and white striped shirt (short-sleeved), and green trousers ... had a round face, blue eyes and crewcut hair. ... he had the most unworried face imaginable, with wide, sparkling eyes and – what most people described as – 'an infectious grin'.
Ziggy Fuzz	'... an eighteenth-century admiral's hat with a fluffy white feather ... a white jacket ... khaki shorts ... and knee-high boots, a monocle and a moustache.'

2. Now, look through the descriptions again and make a note of all the colours the author uses to describe the characters. Who has the most colours? Who has the brightest colours? Who is all in one colour? Who is in the darkest or plainest colour?
3. What sort of impression do we get of each character from the colours used to describe them? Do they sound serious or fun; interesting; exciting; dull; individual; part of a gang, club or funny; frightening? Why do you feel this way about the characters from these colours?
4. Draw an outline of the characters (they can be stick figures), label each figure with their name, write the description next to them, colour them in according to their descriptions and label each diagram with your thoughts about what the character is like to create a useful bank of words for each one (for example, you might decide one character is 'lonely' whilst another is 'individual' and 'fun-loving'). You might be given paper to complete this task in order to make a display of ideas.