

Describing the Appearance of a Character

Look carefully at this illustration of the main character from 'How to Skin a Bear' with her dog and write a piece of descriptive writing about what you can see in the picture. You don't need to have read any of the book to complete this activity — but if you have, then you can use what you know!

As the text of 'How to Skin a Bear' is written in the present tense, keep your writing in the present tense too to practise this skill.

There is a word bank to help you if you need it.



Sentence Starters	Helpful Words
The girl is standing...	young
His eyes...	friendly
His paws...	fierce
He walks in a... way.	smiling
Her tunic is...	thick
There are...	furry
On her wrist...	bracelet
She looks...	leg warmers
Around her legs...	twine
	tame
	gentle
	careful
	alert
	nervously
	close
	loyal
	huge
	barefooted
	dazzling
	shimmering

Describing the Appearance of a Character Answers

Challenge Task

Look back over your description and add in more ambitious words than the ones you used in your first attempt. A thesaurus may help with this.

Jot down the words you changed in the side column.

A young girl is standing tall and looking straight ahead. The girl is wearing a tunic made from animal skin. There are furry edges on the sleeves and a piece of rope is tied around her small waist. On her wrist is a bracelet made up of a collection of bones. She looks friendly and is smiling. Around her legs, more animal skin is tied to make some Stone Age leg warmers. She is accompanied by her faithful friend, a dog. The dog looks as if he could be fierce but he is actually a very gentle and loyal animal. He is a big dog, standing as high as the girl's thigh. He walks carefully, alert to any dangers that may be around. His soft paws pad on the ground as he walks alongside his owner. The dog looks like a wolf and has bright, dazzling eyes. Despite his wild appearance, he seems to be tame.

Words to Improve Description

twine

slim

devoted

companion

good-natured, huge

prowls

ambles