

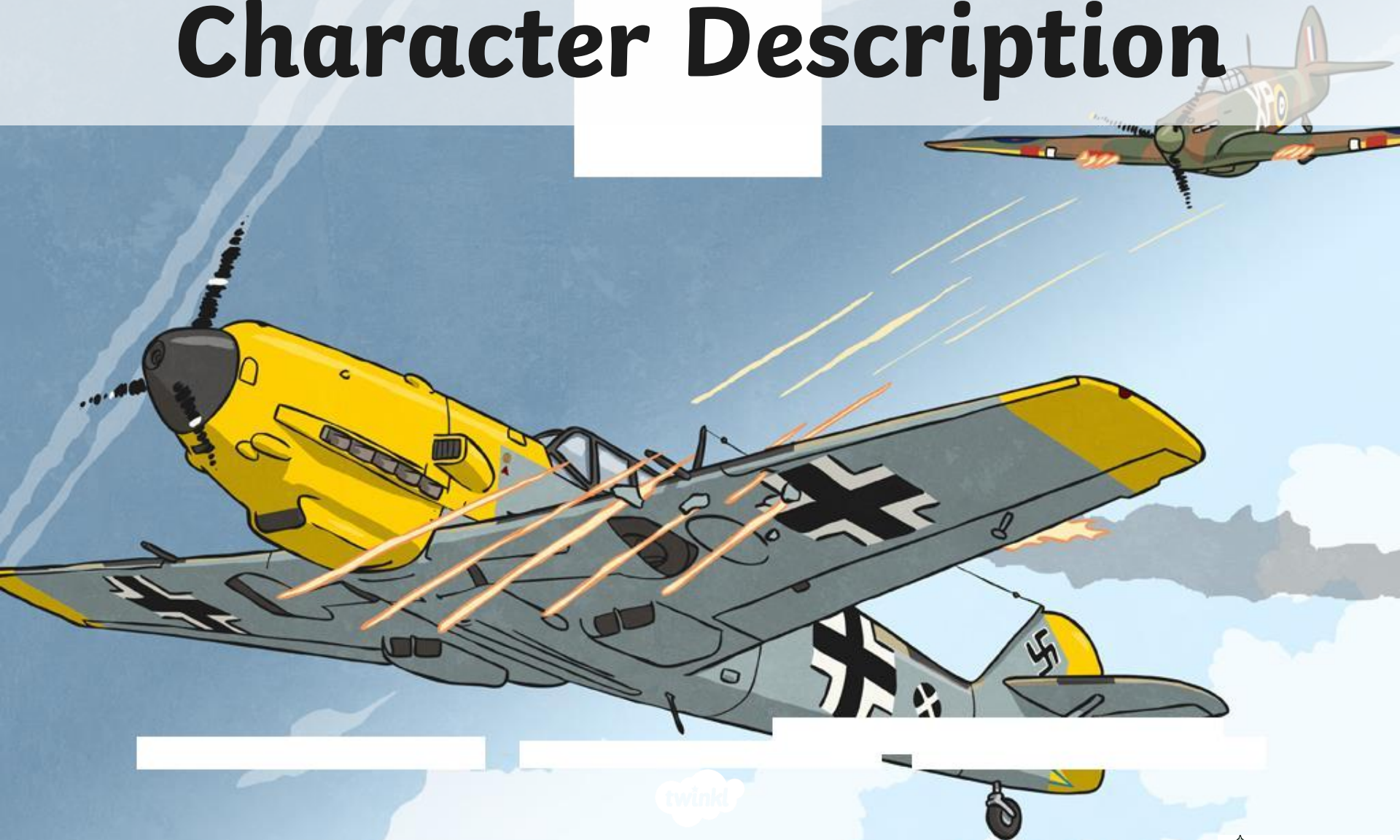


# English

WWII: Battle of Britain



# Character Description



twinkl

# Aim

- I can analyse elements of a character description and plan my own character.

# Success Criteria

- I can identify different elements of a character description.
- I can plan details of my character's appearance, background, behaviour and personality.
- I can describe how my story will begin.

# Aeroplanes and Dogfights

Many of the planes that were piloted during the Battle of Britain have become iconic machines.

The British Spitfire is probably the best known RAF aircraft although the Hurricane was actually more successful overall during the Battle of Britain.

## Some RAF Fighter Planes

Hawker Hurricane

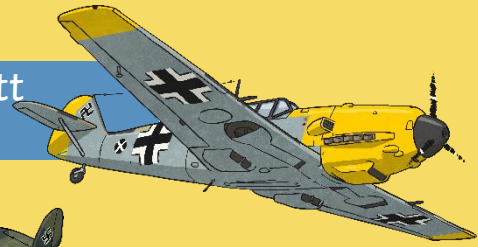


Supermarine Spitfire



## Some Luftwaffe Fighter Planes

Messerschmitt  
BF 109E



Heinkel HE-111



# Aeroplanes and Dogfights

The enemy aircraft fought against each other in daring close-range combat. These battles in the air between fighter aircraft are called **dogfights**.

The term dogfight became popular during World War II, although dogfights occurred during the First World War and continued throughout most wars until the early 1990s. A dogfight uses tactical manoeuvres to target and attack the enemy aircraft, then shoot them down.

During the Battle of Britain, dogfights were an exciting spectacle over the English Channel. Towards the end of the Battle of Britain, 'scores' were even advertised to report on the number of planes lost in comparison to the enemy.

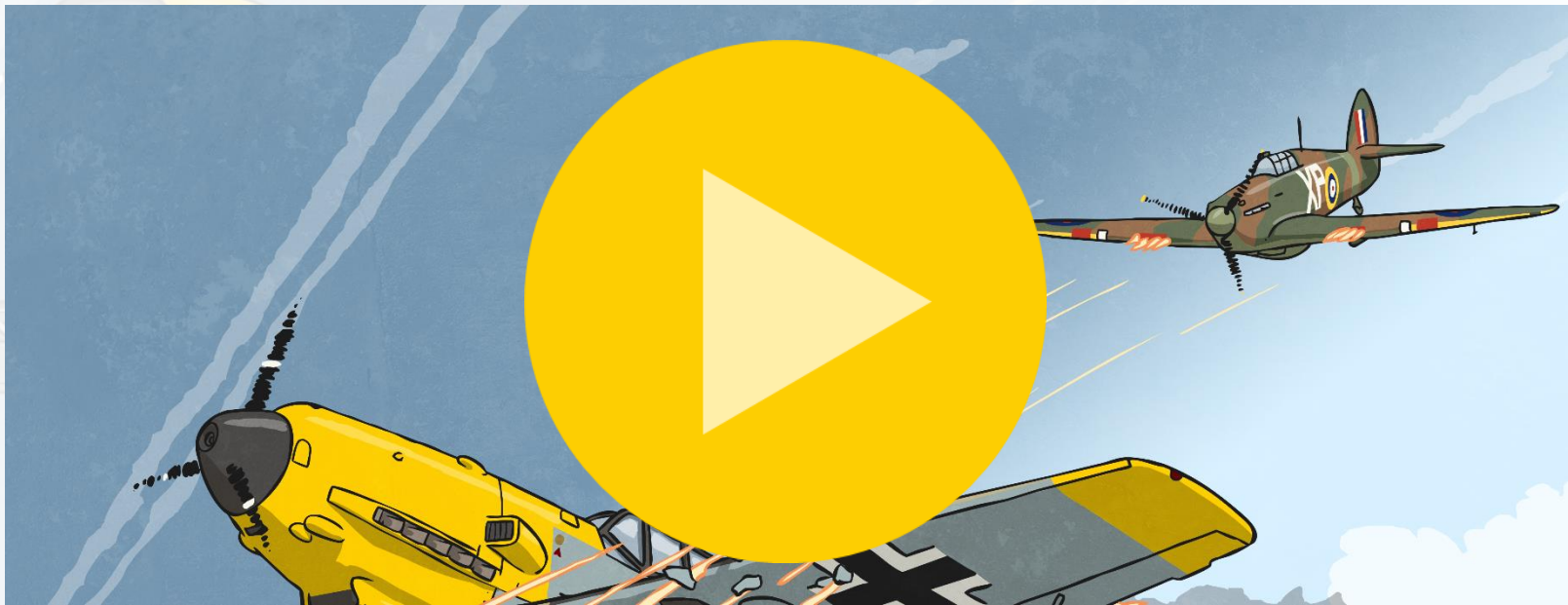


# Meeting the Main Character



You are going to write a story about a dogfight battle during the Battle of Britain. In the first part of the story, you will introduce the main character and set the scene.

Before you begin, you may like to find out about some real-life World War II pilots. You can listen to the experiences of some here:

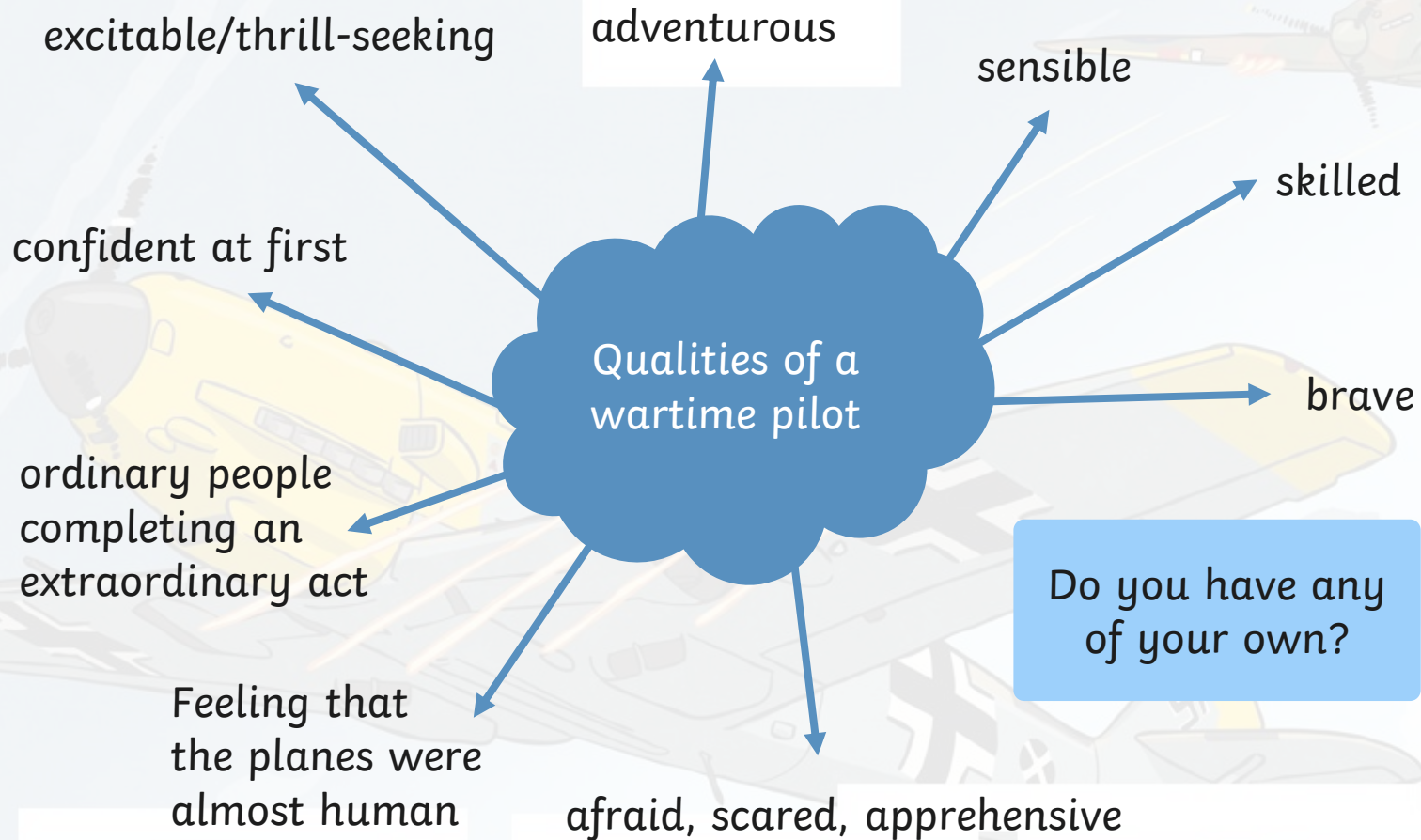


# Meeting the Main Character



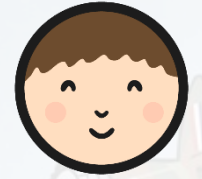
Qualities of a  
wartime pilot

# Meeting the Main Character





# My Pilot Description



Plan what your main character will be like on the **Pilot Description Notes Activity Sheet**.

## Pilot Description Notes

I can analyse elements of a character description and plan my own character.

Make notes to help you plan what your main character will be like.

Name/Squadron/Plane	Picture
Appearance - <i>hair, eyes, height, age</i>	
Background - <i>family life, what they did before the war, when and why they joined the RAF</i>	
Behaviour - <i>how the character speaks and moves</i>	
Actions, thoughts and feelings	
Personality - <i>what your character is like: nervous, confident, cheerful etc.</i>	
Where my story begins - <i>where it is set, what has happened before</i>	

## Pilot Description Notes

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Make notes to help you plan what your main character will be like.

Name/Squadron/Plane	Picture
Appearance	
Background	
Character Details	
Where my story begins	

## Pilot Description Notes

I can analyse elements of a character description and plan my own character.

Make notes to help you plan what your main character will be like.

Name/Squadron/Plane	Picture
Character Details	
Where my story begins	

# Character Description



Use your **Describing a Character Checklist**.

Read the character description and pick out the features which have been included.

## Note:

**You will not be able to highlight every bit of the text because it is not just a character description, but also the beginning of a story. Background information to set the scene is also included.**

**Can you spot where this is?**

## Features of Describing a Character Checklist

Did I...	✓ Child	✓ Friend	✓ Teacher
Structure and Language			
describe the character's appearance?			
describe the character's background/past?			
describe how the character speaks?			
describe how the character moves?			
describe the character's actions, thoughts and feelings?			
describe the character's personality?			

# Character Description



Tom Barrow strolled nonchalantly into the airfield, he shrugged his long dark fringe off his face from time to time and smoothed down his wispy, thin moustache with a lick of his finger. Slung over his left shoulder was his tattered rucksack containing his flask, flying goggles, life jacket and various bits of other paraphernalia. Dressed in his RAF flying uniform he looked smart and ruggedly handsome, his deep brown eyes glinting in the midday sun, which just about managed to mask the fatigue that was beginning to show beneath them. Although he was uniformed up and ready for action, today he was set to carry out some routine repairs on his Spitfire and doubted he would take flight.

describe the character's appearance?	
describe the character's background/past?	
describe how the character speaks?	
describe how the character moves?	
describe the character's actions, thoughts and feelings?	
describe the character's personality?	

# Character Description



Tom was almost twenty three; young, healthy, enthusiastic and emanating an air of confidence which just stopped short of cocky. Tom had joined the RAF as soon as the war broke out. He'd never even been in a plane before but during his training he excelled quickly; he was sharp and fearless and his natural propensity for flying and amiable nature allowed him to rise to second in command in record time. A skilful flyer, Tom was capable of deft air manoeuvres which made the other members of his squadron gasp. He wasn't afraid to take risks or take control; this would be the making or breaking of him and everyone knew it.

describe the character's appearance?	
describe the character's background/past?	✓
describe how the character speaks?	
describe how the character moves?	
describe the character's actions, thoughts and feelings?	✓
describe the character's personality?	✓

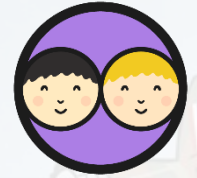
# Character Description



Tom entered the hangar and, shrugging his rucksack carelessly to the floor, he dropped down to slide beneath the engine of the spitfire. After the dogfight Yesterday, he suspected his plane had developed a slight leak as the fuel gauge seemed to be going down more quickly than usual. Tom needed to make sure the plane would be fit to last out the next battle when it came; any leaks or weakened pressure points needed to be fixed immediately. He didn't really feel up to this today; he was achy and tired from the battle yesterday and wished he could rest up back at base with the others for a while.

describe the character's appearance	
describe the character's background information to the story.	
describe how the character speaks?	
describe how the character moves?	
describe the character's actions, thoughts and feelings?	✓
describe the character's personality?	

# Character Description



A mere glance revealed the problem: a tiny scrap of shrapnel embedded in the fuel tank. It must have happened when Frank had opened fire on the Heinkel a few hundred feet below him. The enemy plane had instantly burst into flames and debris exploded into the air all around like metal bolts of lightning. Tom's plane had lifted in the draft and he struggled for a moment to regain control. The Nazi fleet had retreated after that and Tom's squadron returned to base. "Great." Tom muttered sarcastically in his broad Cockney accent. "It's gonna me ages to get that out and repair the hole."

describe the character's appearance?

describe the character's background/past?

de  
spe

More background details.

describe how the character moves?

describe the character's actions, thoughts and feelings?

describe the character's personality?



# Character Description



Did you notice that the different features of the character description were interwoven throughout the text so the description and story opening flowed more smoothly?

In the next lesson you will be writing the introduction to your dogfight story by describing your pilot character and setting the scene.



# Aim

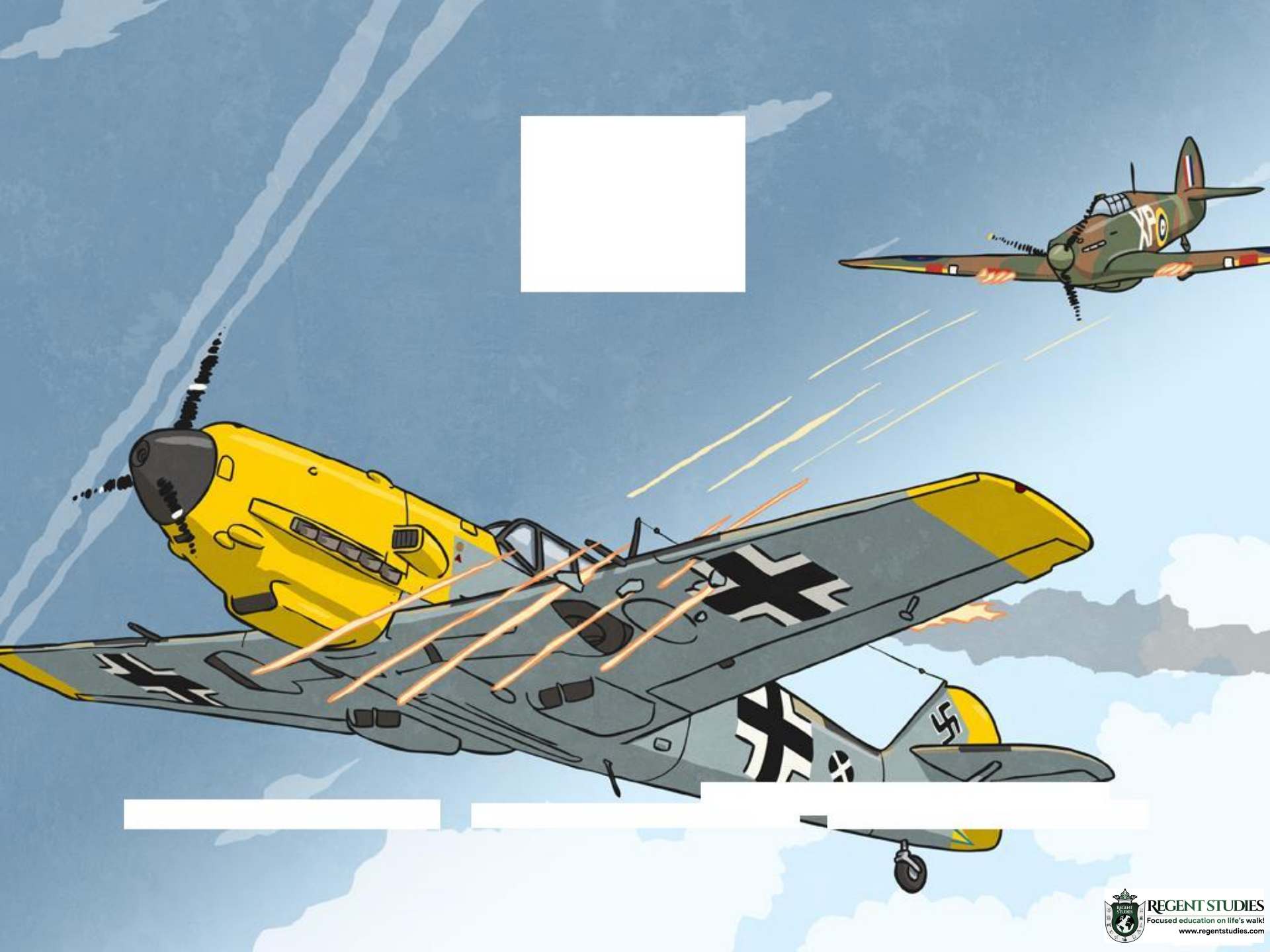


- I can analyse elements of a character description and plan my own character.

# Success Criteria

- I can identify different elements of a character description.
- I can plan details of my character's appearance, background, behaviour and personality.
- I can describe how my story will begin.





[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



**WWII | Character Descriptions**

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# Pilot Description Notes

I can analyse elements of a character description and plan my own character.



Make notes to help you plan what your main character will be like.

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# Pilot Description Notes

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Make notes to help you plan what your main character will be like.

<b>Name/Squadron/Plane</b>	<b>Picture</b>
<b>Appearance</b>	
<b>Background</b>	
<b>Character Details</b>	
<b>Where my story begins</b>	



# Pilot Description Notes

I can analyse elements of a character description and plan my own character.



Make notes to help you plan what your main character will be like.

Name/Squadron/Plane	Picture

**Character Details**

**Where my story begins**

# Tom Barrow: Character Description

Use your **Describing a Character Checklist**.

Read the character description and highlight or annotate the text to show the different features from the checklist.

Tom Barrow strolled nonchalantly into the airfield, he shrugged his long dark fringe off his face from time to time and smoothed down his wispy, thin moustache with a lick of his finger. Slung over his left shoulder was his tattered rucksack containing his flask, flying goggles, life jacket and various bits of other paraphernalia. Dressed in his RAF flying uniform he looked smart and ruggedly handsome, his deep brown eyes glinting in the midday sun, which just about managed to mask the fatigue that was beginning to show beneath them. Although he was uniformed up and ready for action, today he was set to carry out some routine repairs on his Spitfire and doubted he would take flight.

Tom was almost twenty-three; young, healthy, enthusiastic and emanating an air of confidence which just stopped short of arrogant. Tom had joined the RAF as soon as the war broke out. He'd never even been in a plane before but during his training he excelled quickly; he was sharp and fearless and his natural propensity for flying and amiable nature allowed him to rise to second in command in record time. A skilful flyer, Tom was capable of deft air manoeuvres which made the other members of his squadron gasp. He wasn't afraid to take risks or take control; this would be the making or breaking of him and everyone knew it.

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A mere glance revealed the problem: a tiny scrap of shrapnel embedded in the fuel tank. It must have happened when Frank had opened fire on the Heinkel a few hundred feet below him. The enemy plane had instantly burst into flames and debris exploded into the air all around like metal bolts of lightning. Tom's plane had lifted in the draft and he struggled for a moment to regain control. The Nazi fleet had retreated after that and Tom's squadron returned to base.

"Great." Tom muttered sarcastically in his broad Cockney accent. "It's gonna take me ages to get that out and repair the hole."

# Battle of Britain

## Story Writing Lesson 1: Character Description

This series of lessons can be extended significantly by allowing children the opportunity to research more about the Battle of Britain, dogfights and pilots who flew in the Battle of Britain. It works well as part of a wider topic on World War II.

# Features of a Story Beginning and Build-Up Checklist



Did I...	Child	Friend	Teacher
<b>Structure and Language</b>			
set the scene?			
describe the character?			
provide relevant background information?			
hint at potential dilemma?			



# Features of a Story Beginning and Build-Up Checklist



Did I...	Child	Friend	Teacher
<b>Structure and Language</b>			
set the scene?			
describe the character?			
provide relevant background information?			
hint at potential dilemma?			
You were good at...			
Next time it might be better if...			

# Features of Describing a Character Checklist



Did I...	Child	Friend	Teacher
<b>Structure and Language</b>			
describe the character's appearance?			
describe the character's background/past?			
describe how the character speaks?			
describe how the character moves?			
describe the character's actions, thoughts and feelings?			
describe the character's personality?			

# Features of Describing a Character Checklist



Did I...	Child	Friend	Teacher
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describe the character's background/past?			
describe how the character speaks?			
describe how the character moves?			
describe the character's actions, thoughts and feelings?			
describe the character's personality?			
You were good at...			
Next time it might be better if...			