

How does Emily Dickinson develop the character of the wind in “The Wind’s Visit”?

In this lesson you will learn how an author develops a character by analyzing descriptive words in the text.

Let's Review

The Wind's Visit

The wind tapped like a tired man,
And like a host, "Come in,"
I boldly answered; entered then
My residence within
A rapid, footless guest,
To offer whom a chair
Were as impossible as hand
A sofa to the air.
No bone had he to bind him,
His speech was like the push
Of numerous humming-birds at once
From a superior bush.

"The Wind's Visit" by Emily Dickinson

- Narrator "visited" by the character the wind
- The visit is not long
- Narrator feels alone after visit
- Wind is symbol of something else

Let's Review

The Wind's Visit (con't)

His countenance a billow,
His fingers, if he pass,
Let go a music, as of tunes
Blown tremulous in glass.
He visited, still flitting;
Then, like a timid man,
Again he tapped – 't was flurriedly –
And I became alone.

Emily Dickinson

Poetry demands strategic reading:

- Multiple reads
- Short text; each word important
- Descriptive words: key to characterization

Core Lesson

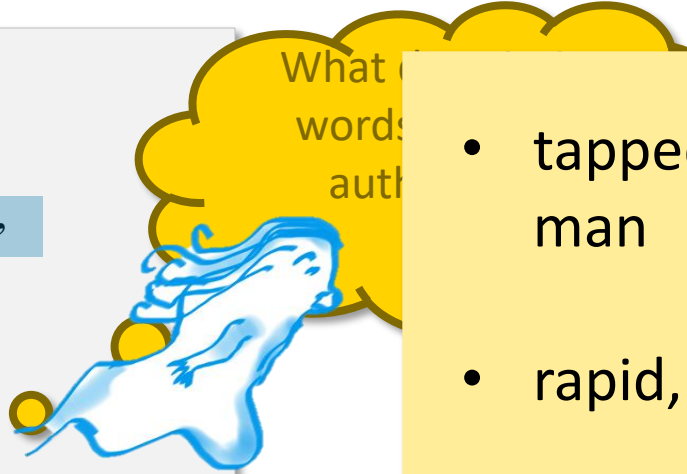
- 1 Reread, identifying descriptions of the character in the text.
- 2 Ask, “What does this make me picture about the character?” Jot down your thinking.
- 3 Ask yourself, “Why did the author do this?”

Core Lesson

1 Reread, identifying descriptions of the character in the text

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Emily Dickinson

What descriptive words does the author use?

- the wind is like a wave
- the wind's fingers make wavering music
- the wind "flits" or darts around

Ask, “What does this make me picture about the character?” Jot down your thinking.

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- tired man who knocks
- moves fast, cannot sit down
- footless, so floats
- no bones, he is fluid

Core Lesson

3

Ask yourself, “Why did the author do this?”

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Emily Dickinson



- the wind is like a wave, he flows
- moves fast, cannot sit down
- makes sound like music as he moves
- shy man who taps

Core Lesson

How does the author develop the character of the wind in “The Wind’s Visit”?

The author develops a character by using personification and descriptive words and phrases.

The author wants me to picture a shy old man who is tired but rushes in and out. The sound he makes as he moves is like soft music. His body is ghostlike; he appears to have no bones. He is constant motion but does not speak.

From a superior bush.

Core Lesson

- 1** Reread, identifying descriptions of the character in the text.
- 2** Ask yourself, “What does this make me picture about the character?” Jot down your thinking.
- 3** Ask yourself, “Why did the author do this?”

In this lesson you have learned how
an author develops a character by
analyzing descriptive words in the text.