

## Character Writing Activity

Afternoon to you all! Today I am going to write a character description of a person who lives in Horncastle. This is an exaggerated version of a real person... it's quite fun to do! Have a go yourself and send them in to us. I have made up the details that I don't know (and changed the name!). You could also just invent a purely fictional character.

### Mr Chips

Mr Chips owns the local fish and chip shop – not just any fish and chip shop, but the best in town. You might think that with a name like that he was born into the profession – the reality, though, is very different. He was born the son of a distinguished engineer, Mr Bridge, and his wife (previously Miss Briggs of Louth), that well-known horticulturist.

Anyway, back to the man in hand! With piercing blue eyes that dance in his smiling round face, it would be hard to miss this jolly figure as he moves around his shop. His polished head gleams like the shiny steel surfaces that he tends daily. Tufts of snowy-white hair spring like a halo around the bald centre. For those of you familiar with Friar Tuck, he boasts a similar haircut.

Despite being rotund and on the stocky side, he moves with the dexterity and purpose of a young man. An early bird, his customers wave at him going about his morning chores as they walk their dogs. Often, he throws open the door to shout an enthusiastic, "Morning!" to his favourite chip-lovers.

His pristine apron and crisp chequered trousers smell of washing powder. The other employees are similarly dressed in matching aprons: smart and tidy to impress their hawk-eyed boss. For although he is loved by all, beware, he will not tolerate poor punctuality or sloppy presentation. In fact, staff present their well-brushed nails for inspection every morning (Mr Chips spent a short time in the army, but that's another story!).

His favourite time of day is when the fryers are full of clean oil, staff are ready to cook, and the buckets of chips and battered fish are awaiting action. The vast queue gathering in cheery anticipation makes small talk as they imagine the crisp golden chunks of potato smothered in vinegary saltiness.

At the end of a busy evening, Mr Chips sighs in contentment as the shop is put back to its well-ordered state. With a wrinkled brow he inspects this last meal produced this evening: his own perfect portion wrapped in paper. Crunchy batter and flaky white haddock fill his generous mouth and a smile of satisfaction spreads across his kindly face as he takes his evening supper.

If you want to have a go, think of these things:

- Appearance (what they look like)
- Clothes/costume/uniform
- How they move – describe them as they move/work
- Try and show what their personality is like rather than telling your reader:  
e.g. 'He arranges the ketchup sachets carefully in orderly rows.'  
rather than: 'He is tidy'
- How do they treat other people? What do other people think of them?

I usually jot down my ideas next to these headings before I start – Mrs V.