

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs



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Snow White and the Queen

WORDS

When the magic mirror talks of Snow White it uses similes to describe her appearance. For example, it says 'her hair is as black as ebony' and 'her skin is as white as snow'.

As you can see from the example, a simile is a way of comparing and likening one thing with another.

ACTIVITY

Bearing Snow White in mind, finish these similes yourself:

- | | |
|------------------|----|
| Her eyes are as | as |
| Her lips are as | as |
| Her hair is as | as |
| Her hands are as | as |

Now think of the Queen either when she is herself or when she is disguised as an old woman and then finish these similes:

- Her eyes are as _____ as _____
- Her lips are as _____ as _____
- Her hair is as _____ as _____
- Her hands are as _____ as _____

Look back at the words that you have used in your similes. Fill in the chart with the words that you have used for Snow White under her name and the words you have used for the Queen under her name:

SNOW WHITE	QUEEN

Compare your words with those of a friend or get together as a class and make lists for Snow White and the Queen. What do you notice about the words used for Snow White? What about the words you used for the Queen? I expect they're quite different. Write a few lines about how the two lists of words are different.

PICTURES

You can see from the last section that words are very useful tools for describing a person's character and appearance. It is mainly words we rely on when reading a book. In a film, however, the images, or pictures on a screen are often more important than words. This is particularly so in animated films when features can be exaggerated.

From the picture of the queen, try and pick out some of the things which make her appear cruel and evil. Can you draw pictures of a good person and an evil person? Give your pictures to a friend and see if they can tell which is good and which is evil.

Either with a friend or with the whole class, fill in the chart to show the different methods you have used to show good and evil in your drawings:

GOOD	EVIL

Is it as easy in real life as it is in a cartoon or animated film to tell if a person is good or evil?

EVENTS

So far we have looked at how words and pictures can be used to tell us about a person's character and to affect the way we feel about a character. In a film there are still more ways that our feelings can be affected.

Think of the scene where Snow White is running away from the huntsman through the forest.

Think of the scene where the witch is running away from the dwarfs. Snow White, the Queen and probably you yourself were feeling frightened at those times. Why?

Write down some of the things that made these scenes frightening.

Did you mention colour? Colour can be very effective in creating certain feelings. Do a painting using either red or blue together with black and white for mixing. What feeling does your picture give you? Find a friend who did a picture using the other colour. What feeling did their picture give you?

ACTIVITY

On the back page there are pictures of Snow White, the Queen and the Seven Dwarfs for you to colour in. Think carefully about the colours you use. Try and make Snow White look as good as possible and the Queen as evil as possible. Try and use colours to make the dwarfs look like their names.

The Seven Dwarfs

The seven dwarfs all look very similar but each has a different personality. Each dwarf's name gives a clue to his personality.

ACTIVITY

Here is a list of the dwarf's names. Next to each name, write down something about the dwarf's behaviour and/or his appearance that might have led him to being given that name. The first one is done for you:

	APPEARANCE	BEHAVIOUR
Doc	wears glasses	is always the leader
SNEEZY		
HAPPY		
GRUMPY		
SLEEPY		
BASHFUL		
DOPEY		

There are only seven dwarfs in the story. There could have been more!

Make up a dwarf of your own and draw a picture of him. Before you start, think of a name that will help you describe what your dwarf is like. For example, in the story, Grumpy is often miserable and frowning while Happy is usually cheerful and smiling. Choose a name from this list or make up one of your own: THINNY
CURLY TINY GIANT

All of the dwarfs are men. What would have happened if the dwarfs had been women or a mixture of men and women? Think up some names for some women dwarfs for the story. When you have done this, write a few lines describing the typical behaviour of your dwarf. Don't forget that his or her behaviour should be linked in some way to her name.