

## Answer the questions underneath each passage.

I thought he was dead. He was sitting with his legs stretched out, and his head tipped back against the wall. He was covered in dust and webs like everything else and his face was thin and pale. Dead bluebottles were scattered on his hair and shoulders. I shone the torch on his white face and his black suit.

1. Write down four adjectives that are used to describe Skellig's appearance.
2. Explain why these adjectives help you imagine what Skellig looks like.

His face was pale as dry plaster. His black suit hung like a sack on his thin bones.

3. Write down four nouns that are used to describe Skellig

He dipped his finger in. He licked his finger and groaned. He stuck his finger in again and hooked a long slimy string of beansprouts and sauce. He stuck his tongue out and licked. He slurped out pieces of pork and mushrooms. He shoved the spring rolls into his mouth. The red sauce trickled down from his lips, down over his chin on to his black jacket.

4. Write down five verbs which describe how Skellig eats the Chinese takeaway.
5. Why do you think the author has chosen these verbs? How do they help you to imagine Skellig eating?
6. Which verb, in particular, really emphasises the sound of Skellig's eating (an example of onomatopoeia)?



## **Section B: Similes**

To describe a character effectively, writers also use similes to help the reader picture the character. Read the following passage and see if you can spot the similes:

I put the tray down on the floor beside him and shone the torch on him. There were hundreds of tiny creases and cracks all over his pale face. A few fine colourless hairs grew on his chin. The red sauce below his lips was like congealed blood. When he opened his eyes again, I saw the tiny red veins like a dark net across the whites of his eyes. There was a smell of dust, old clothes, dry sweat.

1. Copy out the two similes from the passage above and illustrate them.
2. Choose one of the similes and explain how it helps you picture Skellig.

## **Descriptive Writing**

You are now going to invent your own mysterious character. Use the ideas below to help you and try to use a variety of interesting nouns, adjectives and verbs. You should also try to use at least one simile.

Make notes on the following:

Face  
Body

Clothes  
Eating Habits

Speech

Once you have planned your mysterious character, write a paragraph describing your character to someone who has never seen it. Try to describe the character as carefully and accurately as possible.

Once you have done this re-draft your work carefully and illustrate it.

You could begin with the sentence:

*I thought he/she was dead...*

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