

Using language

The language that you select to show your story idea developing should be appropriate for your audience. After you have focused on and analysed your audience think about the language register or level of language. This means that throughout the writing process you need to critically consider word choice, sentence structure, the complexity of images and persuasive devices, and the way ideas are structured or organised in your story.

Characterisation

At the beginning of your story, it is important to establish your protagonist in a clear and compelling way, and to use other characters to develop aspects of the protagonist's journey. Characters may be developed by physical description, dialogue, direct comment by the narrator, and the speech and action of other characters.

Naming of characters is an important technique. For example, in *New Shoes* the composer chooses to give her protagonist a male nickname, which highlights her dilemma and confusion as she transitions from childhood into adulthood.

Allusion is another technique that a composer can use when naming a character. An allusion can link a character to characters and ideas in other texts. This is known as intertextuality. A character or a composer from another text can reappear in your own.

It is important that the composer does not tell the reader about characters, events and setting but shows them dynamically interacting through images that can stimulate and move through the reader's mind in a meaningful way.

Show don't tell

In the story *New Shoes*, the composer clearly presents an image of her protagonist as a spirited adolescent who is awkwardly trying to come to terms with her changing body and the social expectations that she should appear to be feminine and wear dresses. She does not just tell the reader that she sits in a car feeling unhappy but uses language to show her appearance, behaviour, thoughts and mood.

Charlie had a problem. Her sister Becca's wedding would be in just under two weeks and the bridesmaid's dresses hadn't been picked up or fitted. And Charlie's problem was growing because not only was she missing a dress but she didn't have shoes either – and she hated dresses and hated shoes, especially formal attire. So Charlie sat in the back seat of her mother's car with a scowl on her face, arms crossed as she stared seething out the window. Colours blurred past as the car sped along the freeway but all Charlie could see was red.