

Stories with Art: **Character Portraits**



Part One: Who's this character?

Imagine that the woman in this photograph is a character in a story you are to write. Can you write a character sketch for her?



What's a character sketch?

A character sketch gives information about a character in a story. When you write a character sketch, you want the reader to have a strong mental image of the person including how the person talks and walks, thinks and acts.

Look at the photograph carefully. Pay attention to both the woman and the background before you start writing your sketch. Think of what might be clues in there for your sketch.

Make your notes first. Here are some questions to get you started:

- How old do you think this person is?
- Where might she live?
- What kind of clothes does she like to wear?
- What do you think her hobbies or interests might be?
- How do you think she's feeling?
- How would you describe her physical features? Height, hair, skin, etc.
- What kind of person might she be?
Lonely? Busy? Curious? Social? Religious?"

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Once you've made your notes based on what you can see, write down your character sketch below. Don't forget to give her a name!

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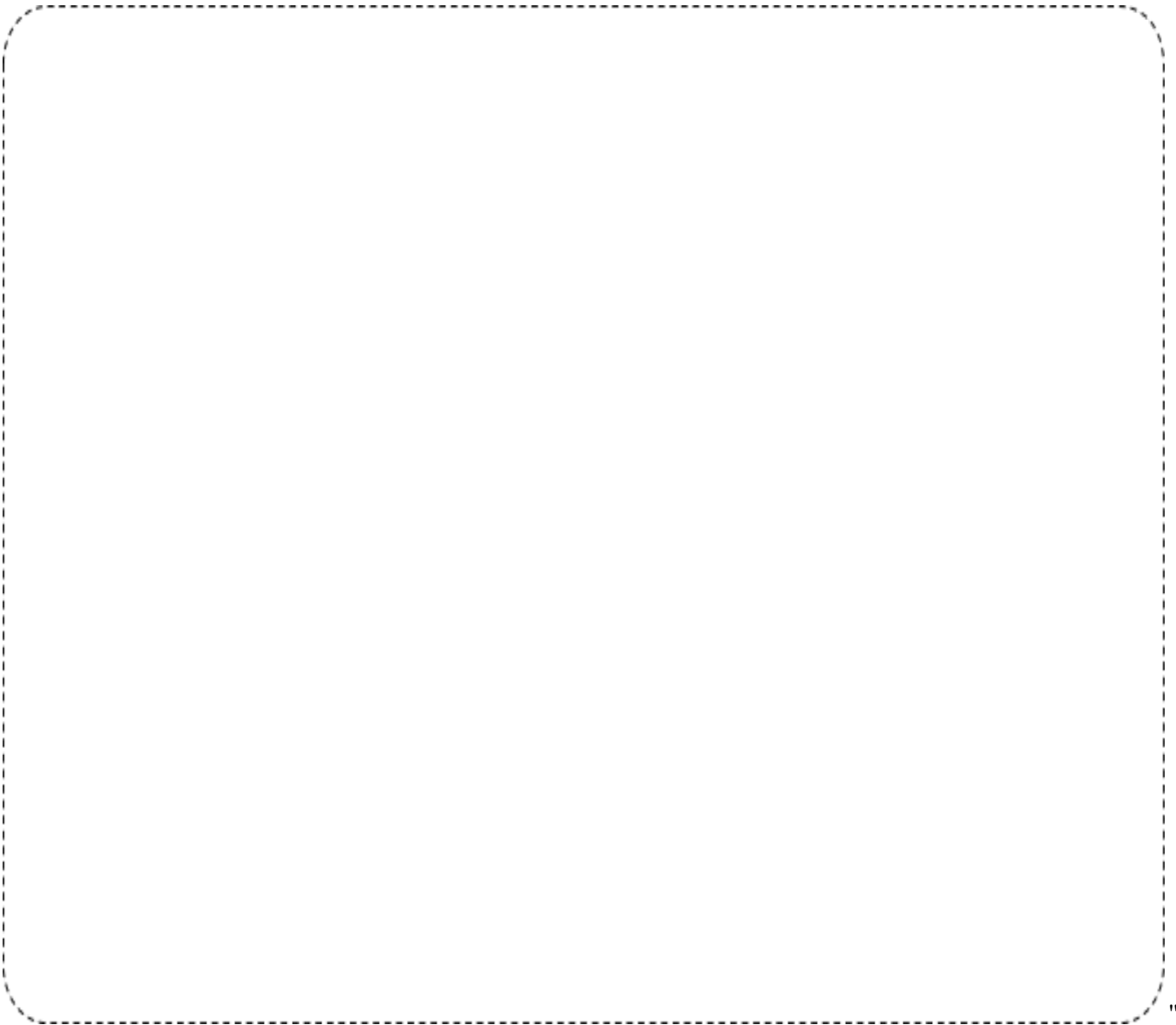
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Your Character Sketch



Pro tip: Make out a list of adjectives you would use to describe your character before you do the sketch. You may not use all of them in your sketch, but the better you see him in your head, the better your reader will be able to see him as well."

Part Two: Coming Alive!

Now that you've sketched out your character, it's time to write your own imaginative story about her. Think about what she's doing in the photograph. What do you think she was doing just before, and what do you imagine she's going to do next?

