



# GRAPHIC NOVELS



## STUDENT BOOKLET

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

# BEFORE READING

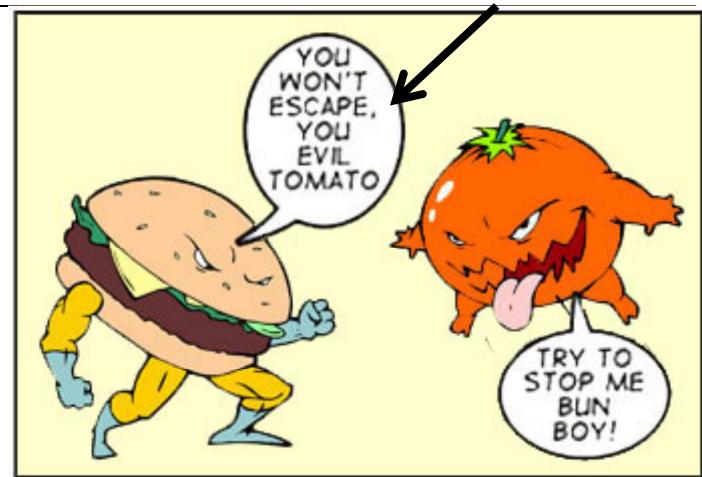
## WHAT ARE GRAPHIC NOVELS?

Graphic novels are books written and illustrated in the style of a comic book. A graphic novel is a series of illustrations - “sequential art” which, when viewed in order, tell a story.

### **PART 1:**

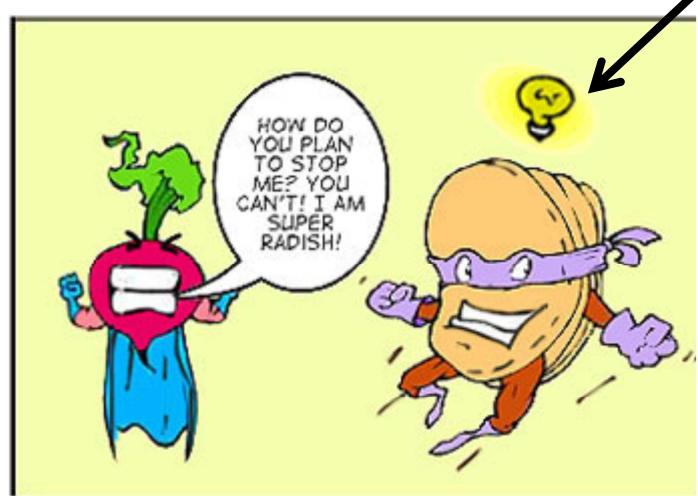
#### **A) VOCABULARY TO GET YOU STARTED!**

**BALLOON:** Object used to contain the dialogue characters in comics speak. Also called speech balloons or bubbles. Balloons are frequently rounded but can take many shapes.



**EMANATA:** Text or icons that represent what's going on in the character's head. For example:

- ? to indicate confusion
- ZZZZZ to indicate sleeping
- A light bulb to indicate an idea.
- @#\$\*& to indicate anger.
- Beads of sweat to indicate nervousness.



**NARRATORY BLOCK:** Rectangles or squares in which a narrator or a character from the story shares special information with the readers. Also known as narrative box or voiceover. The box usually narrates something that is happening or that happened before the scene in the panel. In this example the narratory block describes what is happening in the scene.

HAVING BROKEN THE VASE, SUPERCRAB SNEAKS OFF TO CAUSE TROUBLE ELSEWHERE...



**SOUND EFFECT:** Words that indicate a sound that accompanies the comic panel. Examples:

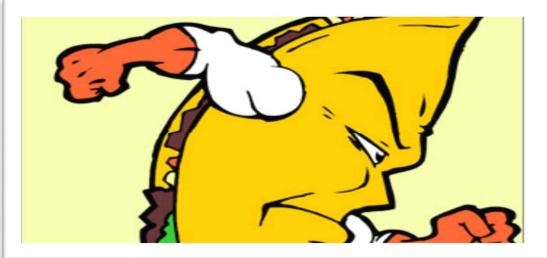
- BANG
- WHAM
- POW
- BOING
- Etc.



**THOUGHT BALLOON:** Objects used to contain a character's thoughts. These text containers are sometimes called **THOUGHT BUBBLES** because of the trail of little bubbles that connect the thought balloon to the character in the comic. The thought balloons reveal what the characters are thinking as they complete the actions in the panel.



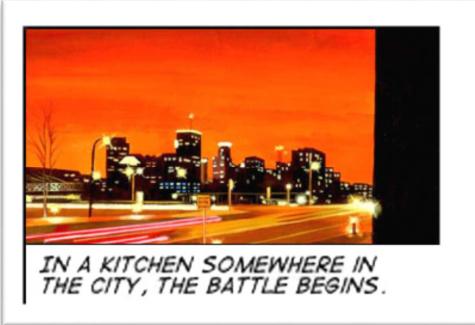
**BLEED:** Images that run outside the border of the panel. In this example, the top and bottom of the taco as well as the taco's left arm bleed outside of the comic panel. When an image runs outside the panel on all four sides it is called a *full bleed*. Comic book covers frequently use a full bleed. A bleed focuses the reader's attention on a specific action.



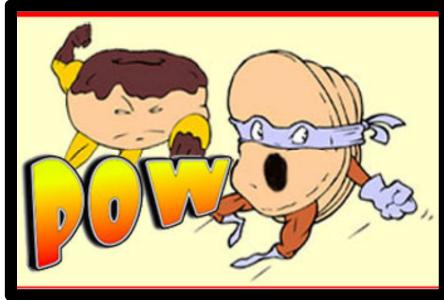
**CLOSE-UP:** Images that are shown in a large view. Frequently, close-ups focus on a character's face, but they can be used to highlight anything. This example shows a close up of the face of the evil tomato from the comic.



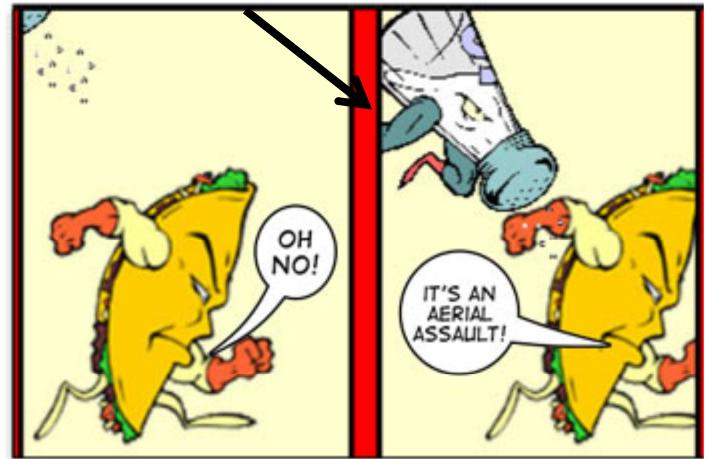
**LONGSHOT:** Images that show objects or characters in very small scale. Frequently, extreme longshots are used to show a full landscape or a crowd of characters.



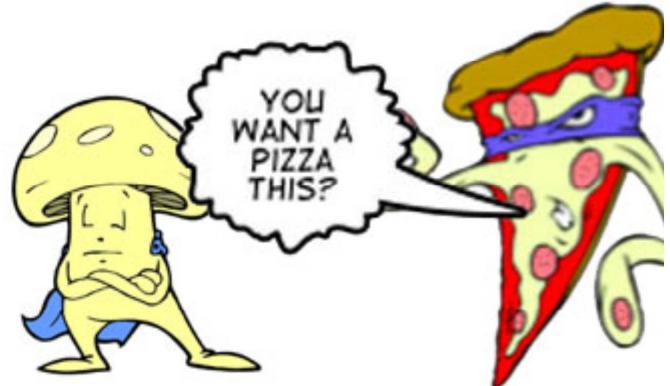
**PANEL OR PANEL FRAME:** The edges or outlines of the comic page.



**GUTTER:** The space between the panels of the comic.



**OPEN PANEL:** Panels where one or more, or even all, of the sides of the comic panel are open to show dramatic effect. Open panels are also known as borderless panels.



## B) SCAVENGER HUNT

In your graphic novel find the following:

	PAGE NUMBER
<b>BALLOON</b>	
<b>NARRATORY BLOCK</b>	
<b>SOUND EFFECT</b>	
<b>THOUGHT BALLOON</b>	
<b>BLEED</b>	
<b>CLOSE-UP</b>	
<b>LONGSHOT</b>	
<b>PANEL OR PANEL FRAMES</b>	
<b>GUTTER</b>	
<b>OPEN PANEL</b>	

**Exchange** with a partner and show your findings.

## C) POST-IT ACTIVITY

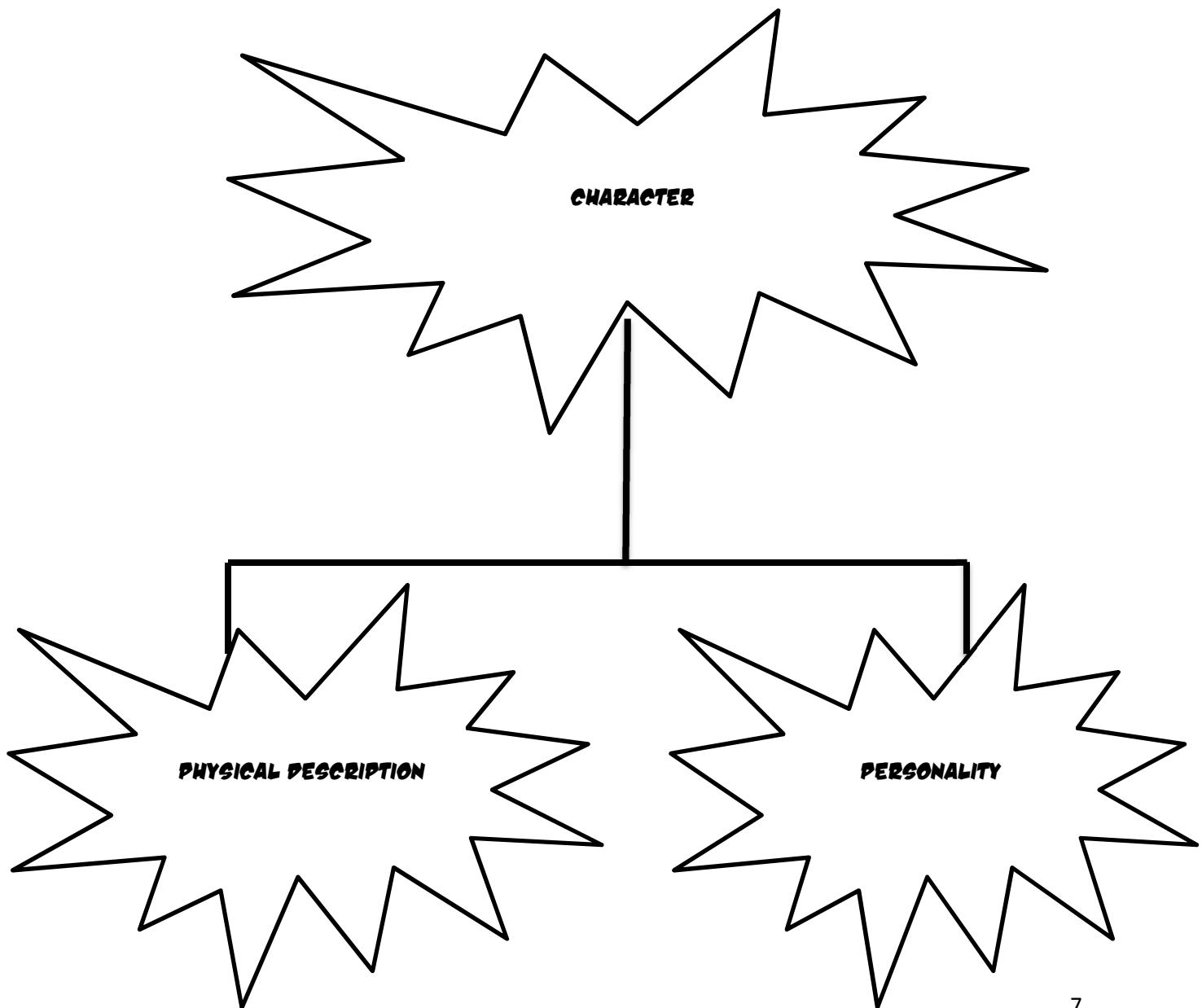
Using a “post- It”, look at your graphic novel and without reading it, for every picture that makes you think of something in your personal life, write it on the “post-it” and stick it on the picture. Be prepared to explain why you used a “post-it” on that particular picture.

# WHILE READING

## PART 2:

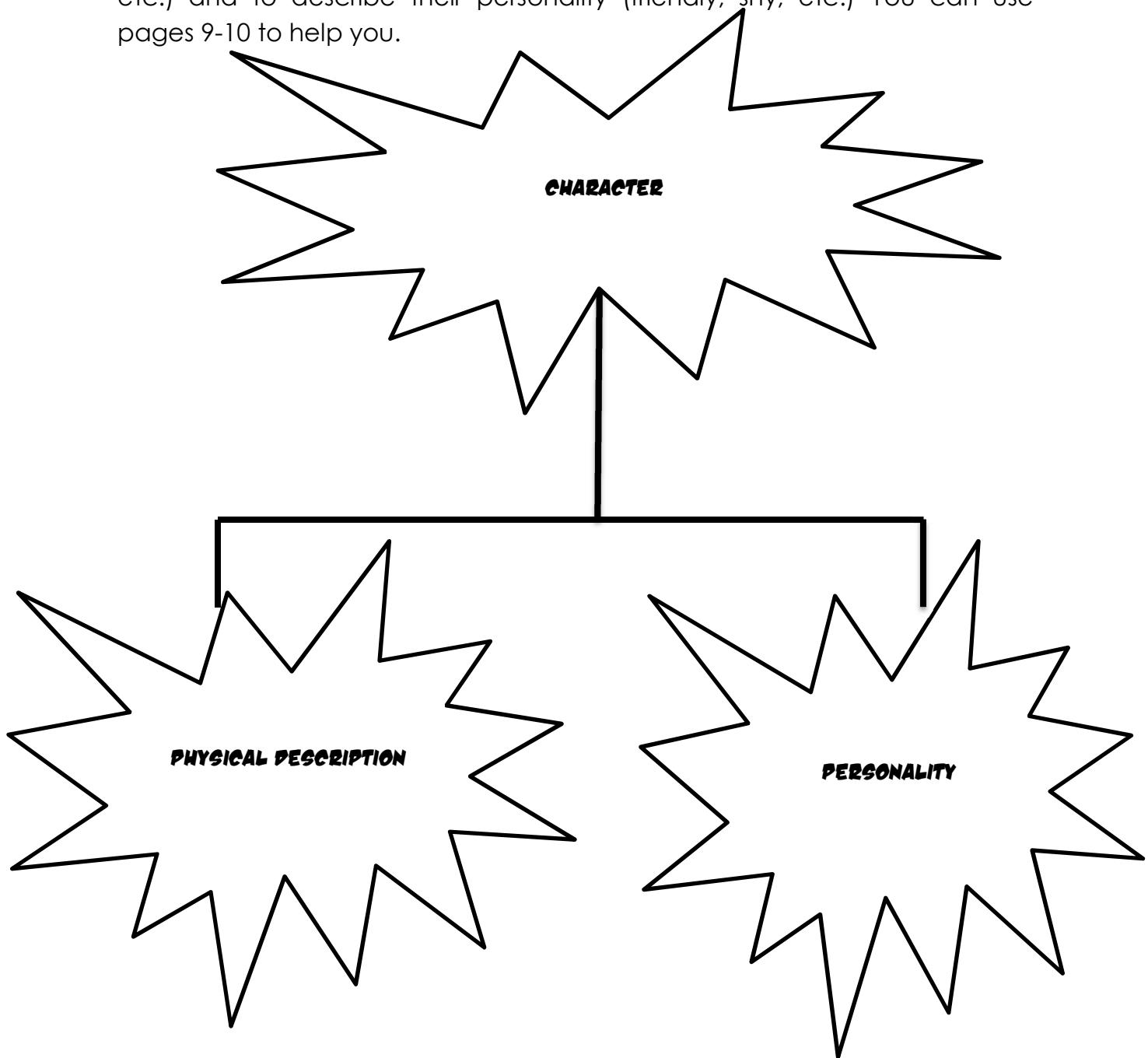
### MAPPING

Use the diagram below to describe 2 of the main characters in the graphic novel. Use adjectives to describe the characters physically (tall, brown eyes, etc.) and to describe their personality (friendly, shy, etc.) You can use pages 9-10 to help you.



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# A List of Character Traits

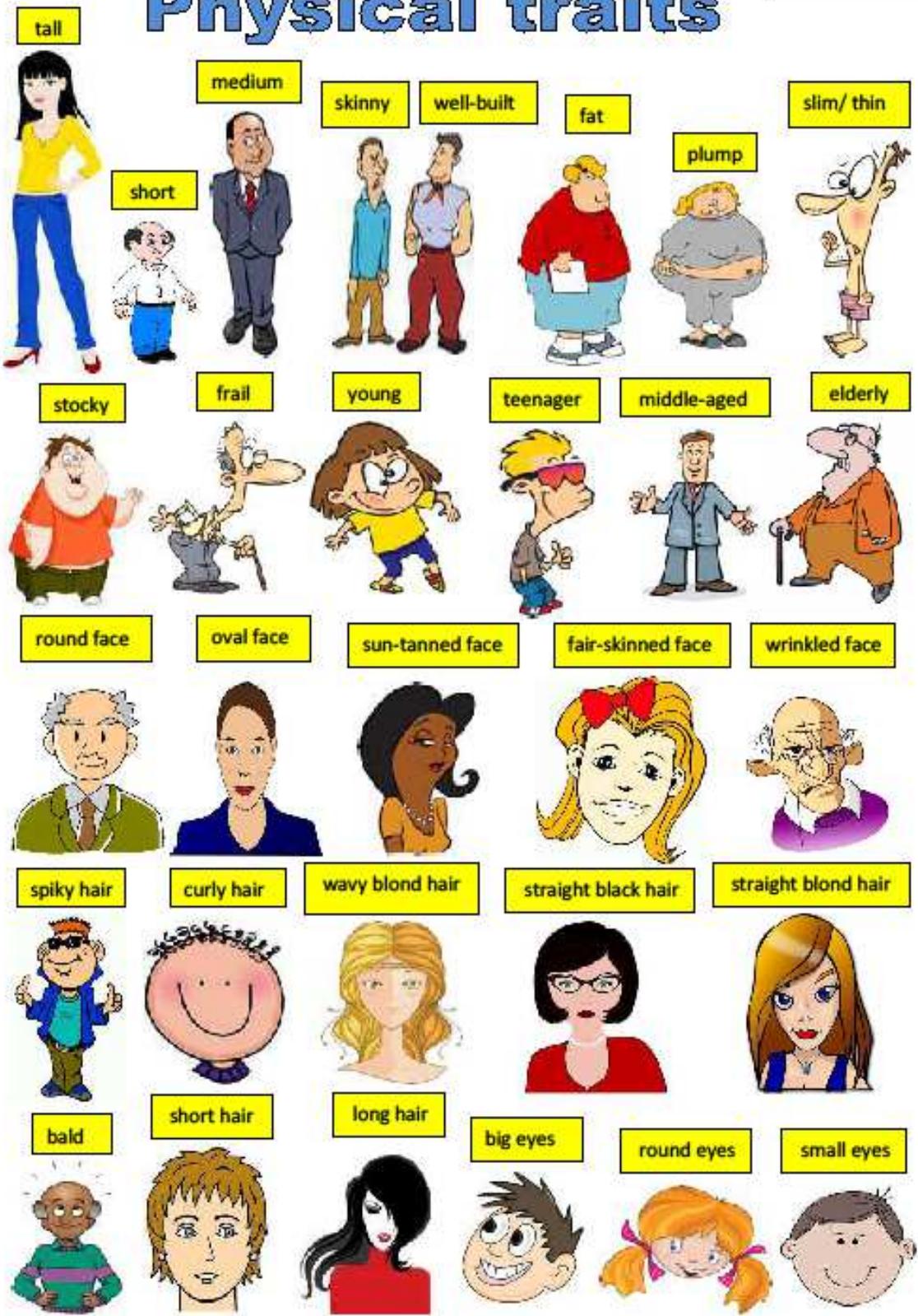
active  
adventurous  
affectionate  
afraid  
ambitious  
angry  
annoyed  
anxious  
argumentative  
astonished  
attentive  
babyish  
bewildered  
bored  
bossy  
brave  
brilliant  
busy  
calm  
capable  
careful  
cautious  
charismatic  
charming  
cheerful  
childish  
clever  
clumsy  
cold-hearted

compassionate  
competitive  
conceited  
concerned  
confident  
confused  
conscientious  
considerate  
cooperative  
courageous  
cowardly  
critical  
cross  
cruel  
curious  
dangerous  
daring  
dependable  
determined  
discouraged  
dishonest  
disrespectful  
doubtful  
eager  
easygoing  
efficient  
embarrassed  
energetic  
enthusiastic

exciting  
fair  
faithful  
fidgety  
fierce  
foolish  
friendly  
frustrated  
funny  
generous  
gentle  
glamorous  
gloomy  
greedy  
grouchy  
happy  
hateful  
helpful  
hopeful  
hopeless  
humorous  
ignorant  
imaginative  
immature  
impatient  
impolite  
impulsive  
inactive  
independent

He/She **is** .....  
He/She **has**.....

# Physical traits



## **PART 3:**

### **READERS THEATRE**

1. With the team reading the same graphic novel as you, look on pages 4-5 of the graphic novel, where all the characters are identified, and assign a character to each person in the group. Don't forget to assign someone to be the narrator. If there are more characters than members of your group, you can choose more than one character.
2. Read a chapter as a group while each person reads the text associated to their character.

#### **Remember:**

- Make sure to look at the punctuation.  
e.g. ! Means read with enthusiasm. ? means that it is a question, therefore intonation should sound like a question.
- Read from left to right, top to bottom. Make sure to read the dialogue in order.

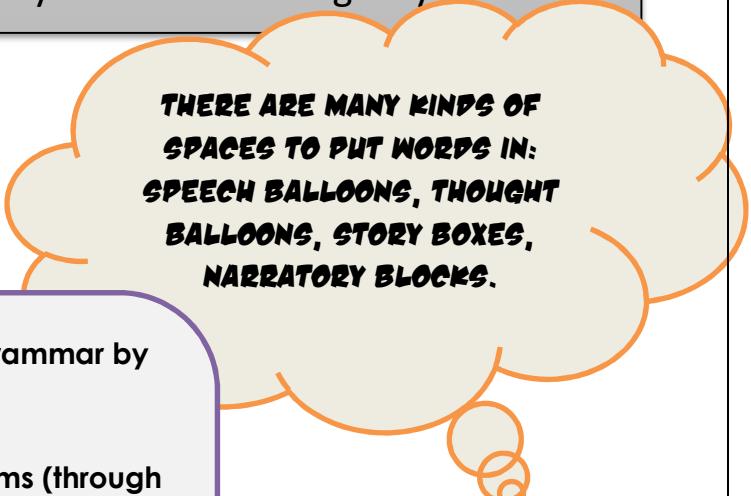
3. When you are finished reading your chapter you can repeat the exercise a second time, switch roles or read another chapter.



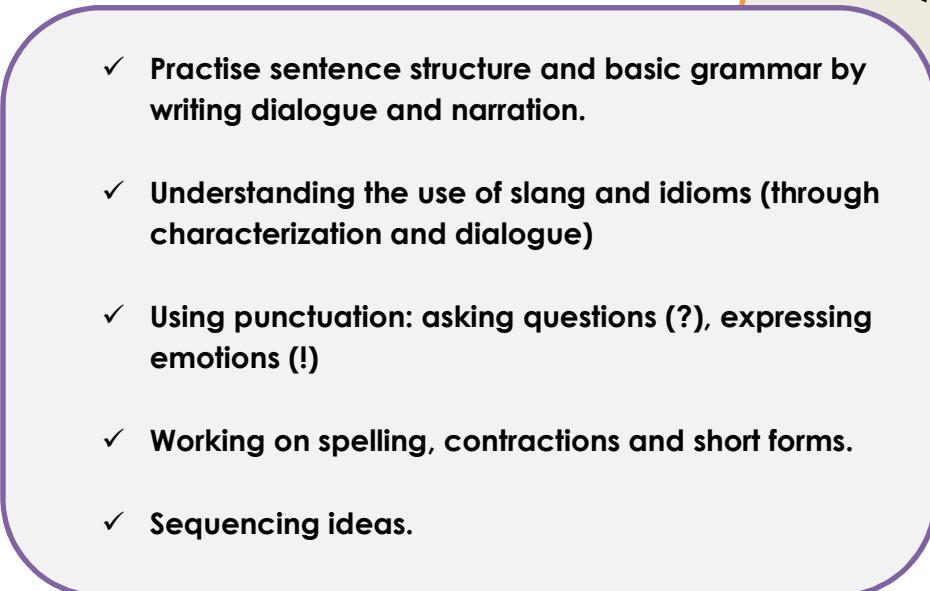
## **FINAL TASK: WORDLESS BOOK COMES TO LIFE**

### **C3: WRITES AND PRODUCES TEXTS**

- Choose a comic strip that you like (from the ones presented to you by your teacher).
- Create a story using the prompt found at the bottom of the page of the comic strip.
  1. Look at the pictures.
  2. Brainstorm your ideas.
  3. Write a draft. Use appropriate punctuation.
  4. Correct your draft using all your resources.
  5. Fill in the panels on the comic strip. Make sure your captions fit with the pictures.
  6. You can choose to add colours to your story.
  7. Refer to evaluation rubric that your teacher will give you.



**THERE ARE MANY KINDS OF SPACES TO PUT WORDS IN:  
SPEECH BALLOONS, THOUGHT  
BALLOONS, STORY BOXES,  
NARRATORIAL BLOCKS.**



- ✓ Practise sentence structure and basic grammar by writing dialogue and narration.
- ✓ Understanding the use of slang and idioms (through characterization and dialogue)
- ✓ Using punctuation: asking questions (?), expressing emotions (!)
- ✓ Working on spelling, contractions and short forms.
- ✓ Sequencing ideas.