

The Little One – Characters



Good writers create characters by ‘showing’ rather than ‘telling’.

In the first chapter of *The Little One*, the author Lynda La Plante provides lots of clues to Barbara’s character.

You can read and listen to the first chapter on the Skillswise website: bbc.co.uk/skillswise/learners/quick-reads/adult-learning-article-quick-reads-the-little-one

Barbara is emotional.

The writer does not state this, but Barbara’s actions show it.

- She cries three times in the first chapter and has a panic attack.
- By the end of the chapter, she is flushed with excitement as things begin to go her way.

Barbara takes advantage of other people.

- She leaves her flat without settling her rent.
- She is delighted when she gets an offer of a free room.
- She is quick to spot an opportunity of cashing in on her friend’s contact with Margaret.

Barbara feels that life is unfair.

‘As far as she could see, other people had such easy lives.’

Look for clues as you read. Think about how the writer brings life to the character through showing us how they act, think and speak to others.