

## Revealing a Character

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In the following passage, the author uses all four techniques (describing the character's appearance, reporting the character's speech and behavior, describing the reactions of other characters to the individual, and revealing the character's thoughts and feelings) to characterize Kelly, a girl who is visiting Sally O'Brien, her best friend. Mrs. O'Brien is Sally's grandmother.

"Good morning, Mrs. O'Brien."

"Goodness, you scared me! Where did you come from?"

"Across the street, of course," Kelly said.

"Don't be fresh, Kelly. How many times have I asked you to use the doorbell?"

Mrs. O'Brien rubbed her red, puffy eyes, and turned back to folding the tumble of fresh-smelling laundry in front of her.

"I suppose you want to see Sally," said Mrs. O'Brien, keeping her back to Kelly. "Well, I am afraid she's not feeling up to having visitors today."

"Again?" Kelly thought, twisting the loose strands of hair that had escaped from her ponytail. She knew she should probably just leave without a fuss. Ever since the funeral, it had been hard to talk to Sally anyway. All she did was sit in her room and play video games.

Kelly couldn't blame her. The O'Brien house just wasn't the same since Sally's mom died. Before then, Kelly never had to ring the bell. She just threw open the door and shouted for Sally to come out and play.

While she was waiting, Sally's mom would greet her with a hug and maybe offer her a cookie that was still warm from the oven.

"Kelly, what are you standing there for?" snapped Mrs. O'Brien, "Didn't you hear me? You can't see Sally today!"

At that moment, something inside Kelly snapped. She was sick of Mrs. O'Brien and her sour face. Sally was her best friend, and Kelly needed to make sure that she was okay. She was going to see her today—NOW.