

## Character Development Exercise: Jarred Dreams

I try to portray my characters through the eyes of others and through what they think, say, do, feel and act, not just by the way look.

1. Can you match some of the listed verbs, adjectives and adverbs to the main characters in Jarred Dreams?

	Dream Thief	Sade	Both/Either
Verbs			
Adjectives			
Adverbs			
Phrases			

scuttles      silently      warns      giggles      throws      triumphant      brave  
 floundering      staggers      screams      colourless      translucent      sickly yellow  
 hooked nose      hooded eyes      blackened claws      burnt      dancing  
 mesmerising      magic      broken magic      shock of blonde curls

zombified demon ghoul grotesque cloaked scuttles drizzle  
cacophony of colours flurries clunky battleship grey single-  
file ominous monotone revelling whine of a persistent mosquito  
dreamcatcher delicious perfume freaky weird rhythmic vibrancy  
brightness imagination creativity vibrancy secrets  
discoveries painting art rummages shocking pink invisible  
crimson dazzle scurrying defiant brave strong  
fish-faces unfamiliar hug trembles reassurance captured ridiculous  
amazingly deserted motionless breathless whisper uncanny  
solitude horrific collapsed recoiled growl tantalising  
snarling vicious smoke wailing defenceless gruesome churned  
painfully scrawled roaring powerful happiness anticipation vibrates  
suspended laughing flailing defeat flatness identical  
parallel harmonised energy tender complicated peaceful  
concoction emotion strong dozing coma disturbingly slicked  
fade lowering geeky annoying weird comfortable silence  
genius brainy babyish burnt-out whisper featureless amazing  
disappeared gripping fault glimmer survive prised encircled  
shedding dislodge  
tentatively effortlessly crouching demon dutifully throaty tumbles  
resistance shuffles frustration paintings memory determined doubt  
battle ultimate creepy horrible bombard stolen destroyed  
pretends stranger bouffant vivid haphazard dedicated research  
bubbling serious intensity thoughtful quiet passive reaches steady  
secure marches charred rotted frosty venom  
loathsome pivots sludge remnants mesmerising emerald magnificent  
beautiful ornate dances brilliant fuzzy canopy  
stooped constraints spreading pleaded grabbing desperate  
collapsing clutches awoken pyjamas derelict staggers  
floundering pleasure anxious spark spit collide human  
sensation tumble withered glitter fear future inexplicably  
immense smashed heal irresistible chatting flyaway

## Additional Activities

2. Look at the words again. Underline the ones that stand out to you. Can you explain why you picked those ones? How do the words make you feel?

3. Create your own character. What words and phrases would you use to portray that character? Think about how they would move, how their voice might sound. If it is easier you can always get them to meet someone else - how do they react? What do they say to one another?

4. Draw and label your character. Do a speech bubble and a thought cloud. Describe what they have in their bag, or pocket. Answer the following questions:

- What was the first thing they did in the morning?
- What did they have for lunch?
- Have they got a secret?
- Who is their best friend?
- Where do they live?
- What are they afraid of?
- What would be their perfect day?

5. I often start my ideas with a character and something that they want. Think about and make some notes on how you might turn your character into a story. You can ask 'what if' or think: what do they need to do to get what they want?

6. Write a short scene with your character. Put them into a situation. You can chose your own or pick one of the following:

- They are about to get on a train
- They trip over something on the street
- They bump into a old friend
- They see a stranger crying
- They are writing a letter/text/email/note