

Character inference from images

As previously mentioned, a short film script has to be especially economical in terms of length. One thing that is key to achieving this is to ensure that characters are expressive of their personality and character with action and decisions. For example, a character who will steadfastly use only their own pen, tells us just as much about a person as them explaining why to someone who offers them a pen to write their signature but is then rebuffed. It's also more interesting visually and shows a confident ability in your ability as a scriptwriter and storyteller.

For this activity, look carefully at the images below, each from a different short film. For each one, consider what the character appears to be doing and how they are doing it. Then, next to each, explain in your own words what you think we learn about this character-what are they like as a person, how do they behave, how do they treat others or even something as straightforward as how old they are or where they live, based purely on the visual clues.

NIGHT FISHING



What we learn about this character and why/how?

WHEN THE DAY BREAKS



What we learn about this character and why/how?

CONNECT



What we learn about this character and why/how?

LA JETÉE



What we learn about this character and why/how?

THE GUNFIGHTER



What we learn about this character and why/how?