

Detail

Consider:

She was wearing her usual at-home vesture. . . . It consisted mostly of a hoary midnight-blue Japanese kimono. She almost invariably wore it through the apartment during the day. With its many occultish-looking folds, it also served as the repository for the paraphernalia of a very heavy cigarette smoker and an amateur handyman; two oversized pockets had been added at the hips, and they usually contained two or three packs of cigarettes, several match folders, a screwdriver, a claw-end hammer, a Boy Scout knife that had once belonged to one of her sons, and an enamel faucet handle or two, plus an assortment of screws, nails, hinges, and ball-bearing casters – all of which tended to make Mrs. Glass chink faintly as she moved about in her large apartment.

— J. D. Salinger, *Franny and Zooey*

Discuss:

1. What does the detail in this passage reveal about Mrs. Glass's character? In other words, how does the detail give you a picture of her looks and insight into her character?

2. How would the meaning of the fourth sentence (*With its many . . .*) be different without the detail that follows the semicolon?

Apply:

Sketch a picture of Mrs. Glass. Include in your sketch the details from the passage that you think are most expressive of the author's attitude toward Mrs. Glass.