

Detail

Consider:

In fact right behind her Gabriel could be seen piloting Freddy Malins across the landing. The latter, a young man of about forty, was of Gabriel's size and build, with very round shoulders. His face was fleshy and pallid, touched with colour only at the thick hanging lobes of his ears and at the wide wings of his nose. He had coarse features, a blunt nose, a convex and receding brow, tumid and protruded lips. His heavy-lidded eyes and the disorder of his scanty hair made him look sleepy.

— James Joyce, "The Dead"

Discuss:

1. Joyce uses many specific details to describe Freddy's physical appearance. Fill in the chart below and indicate (✓) whether each detail is objective (making an observation) or evaluative (making a judgment).

Detail	Objective	Evaluative

2. What is Joyce's attitude toward Freddy? Which specific details reveal this attitude?

Apply:

Write a paragraph describing a character's personality by describing his/her physical traits. Do not make any direct statements about his/her personality or character. Instead, use detail about appearance to capture character. Read your paragraph to a partner and discuss which physical traits are stereotypes and which traits are valid indications of character.