

Characters and Settings in Noun Phrases

Characters are the people or animals in a story. The **setting** is the time and place of a story. **Noun phrases** are a group of words that have a noun (a person, place, or thing) or pronoun, and other words (usually **adjectives**) that **modify or describe** the noun/pronoun.

Noun phrases can give readers information about the characters and settings of a story.

For example:

Once upon a time, there lived a beautiful princess in a great kingdom. She had black hair, pale skin, and red lips. She had a loving father but an unkind evil stepmother. One day, as she walked through the dark woods at night, she came across a small cottage and decided to go in.

Noun phrases to show **CHARACTER**:

- beautiful princess
- black hair
- pale skin
- red lips
- loving father
- unkind evil stepmother

Noun phrases to show **SETTING**:

- great kingdom
- dark woods
- small cottage

Directions: Read the short stories. Circle the noun phrases that describe a character in **RED** and the noun phrases that describe a setting in **GREEN**.



Once upon a time, a little gray duckling was born. None of the other farm animals were kind to the little gray duckling, and they called him the "ugly duckling." At the same time, a few fields away, a little brown duckling was born. The farm animals that lived with the little brown duckling treated him unkind, too, and they called him the "beastly bird."

That night, the ugly duckling decided to go for a walk a few fields away. Before long, the ugly duckling approached a beautiful field. The ugly duckling discovered a small log in the middle of a colorful flower field. He looked inside the log and much to his surprise, out popped the beastly bird. The ugly duckling introduced himself to the beastly bird, and they both smiled upon seeing each other. Before long, they became best friends and treated one another with kindness and compassion.



A young fox was walking through the wet forest when he saw a big black crow sitting on a thin tree branch with a fine piece of cheese in her beak. The fox wanted the cheese and decided he would be clever enough to trick the bird. "What a noble, gracious bird, see in the tree!" said the fox, "What lovely beauty! If her voice is as lovely as her beauty, she would no doubt be the most beautiful bird!" The proud crow was so flattered by all this talk that she opened her beak and gave a cry to show the fox her voice. "Caw! Caw!" she cried, as the cheese dropped to the ground for the fox to grab. Ashamed and hungry, the sad crow flew away and found a new tree to make her home.