

## More than Meets the Eye

*An activity of "Why some giants are loveable"*

Read "Why some giants are loveable" (page 24, *What's Up* May 2026). The article explains why some fictional giants may look frightening at first, but later show kindness, loneliness or courage beneath the surface.

1. Based on the article, what did you learn about the different characters?

<b>Character</b>	<b>First impression</b> (what others may think at first)	<b>Deeper truth</b> (what we later discover)	<b>A lesson</b> (what this teaches us)
<b>i) The BFG</b>	He is huge / tall/ seems frightening.		
<b>ii) The Iron Giant</b>		He is innocent, peaceful and protective. He chooses not to harm others.	
<b>iii) Toothless</b>			Fear can turn into friendship when we take time to understand others.
<b>iv) Janice Avery</b>	She seems like a cruel bully or "giant troll" who frightens other children.		

2. Our first impressions of the four giants above present them as flat characters. Our later observations make them more rounded characters, Take a look at these definitions of a Flat Character and a Rounded Character.

**A Flat Character** is simple and one-dimensional. The character may only have one obvious trait, “the scary giant”, “the bully” or “the perfect student”.

**A Rounded Character** feels more real. The character has many facets, such as strengths, flaws, fears, hopes, contradictions, reasons for behaving a certain way and the ability to surprise us. Rounded characters make our stories richer and more vivid.

3. Create a rounded character! Here is a C.H.A.R.M framework that you can use.

Meaning	What it means
Contradiction	The character seems scary but acts gently or may appear confident but feels afraid.
Hidden feelings	The character has emotions beneath the surface, such as loneliness, sadness, worry, shame or hope.
Aims	The character may want, for instance, friendship, safety, respect, freedom, forgiveness or a sense of belonging.
Reason	There is a reason behind how the character behaves e.g. their beliefs or past experiences influence present actions.
Moment of choice	The character reveals who they really are through an action or decision.

4. Choose a character from the list below (or come up with your own):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> class bully      | <input type="checkbox"/> mysterious stranger     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> quiet student    | <input type="checkbox"/> grumpy child            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> popular girl     | <input type="checkbox"/> cheerful security guard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fierce neighbour | <input type="checkbox"/> boastful boy            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> annoying friend  | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____            |

5. Fill in the organiser on the next page to create your rounded character. Use your C.H.A.R.M framework to help you.
6. Using your points in the organizer, write a short story titled, “More than meets the eye”. Your story should include how your character is misunderstood at first then slowly reveals a deeper side through his or her actions, words or choices.

# C.H.A.R.M

Draw your character



Name:

First Impression:

(People think this character is \_\_\_\_\_.)

Contradiction

(They seem \_\_\_\_\_ but actually \_\_\_\_\_.)



Aim

(They want \_\_\_\_\_.)



Hidden Fear

(Secretly, they feel or fear \_\_\_\_\_.)



Moment of choice

(They reveal their true self when \_\_\_\_\_.)

Reason

(They behave this way because \_\_\_\_\_.)