In the best books we aren’t always told directly what a character is like, readers have to deduce and infer information from what they read. We piece together clues to create an overall impression of a character that the author has created.

**Task:** Read the short extracts below and think about what you learn about the character:

“District Twelve. Where you can starve to death in safety,” I mutter. Then I glance quickly over my shoulder. Even here, even in the middle of nowhere, you worry someone might overhear you.

Even at home, where I am less pleasant, I avoid discussing tricky topics.

Gale says I never smile except in the woods.

But to be honest, I’m not the forgiving type.

I always take a moment to listen carefully for the hum that means the fence is live.

I protect Prim in every way I can, but I’m powerless against the reaping.

I can feel the muscles in my face relaxing, my pace quickening as I climb the hills to our place, a rock ledge overlooking a valley.

I swing my legs off the bed and slide into my hunting boots.

So I learned to hold my tongue and to turn my features into an indifferent mask so that no one could ever read my thoughts.

Sometimes, when I clean a kill, I feed Buttercup the entrails.

**Answer the following questions:**

1. What can you deduce about the character from what they say and the way they view the world? Are they male or female? Young or old? What is it they might do? Who is important to them? Are they a sympathetic character or someone that seems unappealing? Write your response using P.E.E paragraphs.

2. What predictions about the story can you make from these small clues? When and where might it be set? What might the themes be? What kind of characters will be in the story?