Anthony Horowitz uses small key details in his writing to create a character. Read through the quotes and try to identify the different characters.

1. ‘He was in his thirties, wearing a polyester suit with a Marks and Spencer tie. He had the sort of face you forgot even while you were looking at it.’

2. ‘Grey suit, grey hair, grey lips and grey eyes. His face was expressionless, the eyes behind the square, gunmetal spectacles completely empty.’

3. ‘He was short and muscular with square shoulders and black, close-cropped hair. He had a handsome face, made slightly uneven by his nose, which had been broken at some time in the past.’

4. ‘She was in her late twenties, with a sprawl of red hair and a round boyish face.’

5. ‘A dark, rather masculine woman.’

6. ‘He was already well built, with the body of an athlete. His hair, cut short apart from two thick strands hanging over his forehead, was fair. His eyes were brown and serious.’

7. ‘The man was enormously fat. He was bald, with a black moustache and several chins, each one melting into the next and finally into his neck and shoulders.’

8. ‘He was short. His skin was very dark, so that his teeth flashed when he smiled. He had a round, bald head and very horrible eyes. The grey irises were too small, completely surrounded by white.’

Extra:
After reading Anthony Horowitz’s character details can you write three character descriptions in a similar style?

Possible characters:
A hero, a villain and a spy master – like Blunt or Mrs Jones.

Writer’s tips:

- focus in on physical features
- careful choice of colour
- use small key details
- varied sentence structure
- powerful choices of words
- details of height, age or size.