**Painting Pictures with Words: Describing Characters**

**Nimueh**

Then, out of the darkness, came a lady, dark-haired and beautiful, wearing a gown of wine-red. She stood over the burial casket of a knight and began to speak in a strange language, the words flowing from her lips like a dark song. She raised her arm over the casket, her long fingers extended, and her eyes, wide and intense. The flow of words grew louder, the lady’s voice grew stronger and more insistent, until almost shrieking, she spoke the name, ‘Uther Pendragon!’

**Guinevere**

Sitting alone in the room was a girl – no, rather a woman – and beside her a harp. As I strained to see better, I slipped noiselessly on the wet cobbles. But so intent was she on her playing that she did not hear me and she did not look up. Her fingers plucked effortlessly. It was her fingers, long, white and dancing, that I loved first. Her hair was the colour of honey, of gold washed in milk. It fell over her face so that I could not see her. But I did not need to, for I knew already she would be perfect.

From *Arthur, High King of Britain* by Michael Morpurgo

**Merlin**

The man I found at my side was a head taller than I was. When he put back the hood of his dark cloak, I saw his face, parchment-silver and etched with age. His hair was long to his shoulders and shone silver in the sun.

From *Arthur, High King of Britain* by Michael Morpurgo

Read the descriptions of the characters above. For each one, this is the first time the reader meets this character and first impressions count! What are your first impressions?

Now have a close look at ***how*** the writer has described the characters: and fill in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Nouns which name and describe what the character looks like | Adjectives which describe what the character looks like |
| Nimueh |  |  |
| Guinevere |  |  |
| Merlin |  |  |