

Exercise: Voice -- The sounds of voice

From John Gardner's "Art of Fiction."

This one is good practice in seeing how the way that language sounds conveys a lot about narrative voice -- and about character too:

17. Describe a character in a brief passage (one or two pages) using mostly long vowels and soft consonants (*o* as in "moan," *e* as in "see"; *l*, *m*, *n*, *sh*, etc.); then describe the same character, using mostly short vowels and hard consonants (*i* as in "sit"; *k*, *t*, *p*, *gg*, etc.).