

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS AND IMAGERY:

Authors use physical descriptions to let us know something about the characters personality. They also use imagery as symbols to discuss the emotions of a character or the meaning of the story.

EXAMPLES FROM THE SPLIT CHERRY TREE:

Professor Herbert was a big man. He wore a gray suit of clothes. The suit matched his gray hair.

(WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT PROFESSOR HERBERT?)

- a) He is passed middle age because his hair is gray.
- b) He wears a suit of clothes to school when all the students are sons and daughters of farmers and this implies that he isn't from the area (Dave later states this).

Pa's "eyes danced fire"

- a) Pa is mad and Dave can tell by just looking at him.

Pa wore overalls, big boots, a blue shirt and a sheepskin coat, and a slouched black hat gone to seed at the top.

WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT PA? COMPARE IT TO PROFESSOR HERBERT?

His face was getting red. The red color was coming through the brown, weather-beaten skin on Pa's Face.

WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT PA?

"This maul o' mine could do you up in a few minutes." Pa stood there, big, hard, brown-skinned, and mighty, beside Professor Herbert. I didn't know Pa was so much bigger and harder. Professor Herbert always looked big before me. He didn't look big standing beside Pa.

WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT PA? WHAT DOES IT TELL US ABOUT PROFESSOR HERBERT?

His sheepskin coat, his big boots laced in front with buckskin, and his heavy socks stuck above the boot tops. Pa's overall legs were baggy and wrinkled between his coat and boot tops. His blue work shirt showed at the collar. His big black hat showed his gray-streaked black hair. His face was hard and weather-tanned to the color of a ripe fodder blade. His hands were big and gnarled like the roots of the elm tree he stood beside.

WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT PA?

He looked like a leaf turned brown on the tree among the treetop filled with growing leaves.

(WHAT DOES THIS SAY ABOUT PA and the relationship with Dave? What does it say about the main conflict of the story?)