

EPITHETS

AND WHY TO AVOID THEM



WHAT IS AN EPITHET?

An epithet is an adjective or phrase that describes a person or thing by their/its key characteristics.

EXAMPLES

The young man
The blonde woman

WHY AVOID THEM?

Epithets create distance, making it hard for the reader to relate to the character.

Stick to the character's name, or the relevant pronoun.

WHEN TO USE THEM

When we do not yet know a character's name.