

Creating Characters: Flipped Villains with Benjamin Dean

1. Villainous Tropes – note down as many villainous features as you can think of:

2. Create a character who might appear in a science-fiction story (e.g. an alien) – include at least three of your villainous tropes. You could draw a picture and/or write a short description:

3. Zed's dad is a 'Hunter'. Other characters in the story are 'Star Herders'. Create a name for the group your character belongs to and use it to complete the sentence below from *The Boy Who Fell From the Sky*:

A _____ is made up of darkness and hate. If you see their eyes, it's already too late.

Now it is time to flip your villain!

4. Using a labelled diagram, a few sentences of writing, or both, explain how each of the supposedly villainous features of your character are not what they seem:

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Extended Writing Challenge: Unexpected Friendships

Write a scene in the first person (using 'I', 'me', 'my') describing your narrator meeting your flipped villain for the first time.

Think about:

- How your narrator will feel about your character when they first see them.
- What will happen to make your narrator realise that their first impressions were wrong?
- What might convince your narrator that this new character would make a good friend?

For inspiration, read the extract from *The Boy Who Fell from the Sky* where Zed and Spark first meet (pages 73-77).