Thoughts, Feelings and Actions

In addition to background information and physical appearance, skilful writers also provide details about the main character’s *thoughts, feelings* and *actions*. This is what really brings the character to life.

Read the following paragraph written by Stuart Mead. It is about a character called Mr Chan. Highlight details about Mr Chan’s *actions* in yellow. Highlight details about his *thoughts* and *feelings* in pink.

*Old Mr Chan stopped at the bottom of the stairs, resting before he started the slow climb to his second-floor flat. He used a tissue to wipe the sweat from his face. He got ready for the slow, steep walk up the stairs. “Every day, it’s the same,” he thought. Carrying a plastic bag full of vegetables in his left hand, he started the climb. One step. Slowly. It was hard work. Another step. Long ago, he could have run up the stairs, but now his muscles are weak. Slowly. He was breathing hard. Step by step he climbed. Finally, he arrived at his door. He stopped. He was too tired to search for the key in his pocket, too tired to carry the bag any more. The bag fell on to the floor. He looked at the green, white and orange vegetables. “Every day, it’s the same,” he thought.*

Besides describing Mr Chan’s *thoughts, feelings* and *actions*, here are a few other techniques that the author uses to bring Mr Chan to life. Can you find an example of each technique in the passage?

1. Repetition of words: __________________________________________________________________________

2. Repetition of phrases or grammatical structures: ________________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

3. A description of an action that illustrates a feeling: ________________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Now write the next paragraph of this story. Remember that Mr Chan still has to pick up the vegetables, put them in the bag, find his house key, unlock the door and open it, etc. What does he think as he completes these actions? How does he feel?