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| **Language from the text** | **Explanation of the language. What does it say about Charlotte’s mother?** |
| *"My mother is a flawless modern building, created of glass and the smoothest of pale concrete.”* |  |
| *“Inside are business offices furnished with beige carpets and gleaming chromium.”* |  |
| *“In every room there are machines - telex machines, mimeograph machines, and sleek typewriters.”* |  |
| *“They are buzzing and clicking away, absorbing and spitting out information with a speed and skill that is not normal.”* |  |
| *“Downstairs, at ground level, people walk in and out, tracking mud and dirt over the steel-grey tiles, marring the cool perfection of the building.”* |  |
| *“There are no comfortable chairs in the lobby."* |  |

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| **Language from the text** | **What does the language say about character?** |
| *“Miss Hancock was a birthday cake," I wrote. "This cake was frosted by someone unschooled in the art of cake decoration.”* |  |
| *“It was adorned with a profusion of white roses and lime-green leaves, which drooped and dribbled at the edges where the pastry tube had slipped.”* |  |
| *The frosting was of an intense peppermint flavour, too sweet, too strong.* |  |
| *Inside, the cake had two layers - chocolate and vanilla. The chocolate was rich and soft and very delicious. No one who stopped to taste it could have failed to enjoy it.* |  |
| *The vanilla was subtle and delicate; only those thoroughly familiar with cakes, only those with great sensitivity of taste, could have perceived its true fine flavour.* |  |
| *Because it was a birthday cake, it was filled with party favours. If you stayed long enough at the party, you could amass quite a large collection of these treasures.If you kept them for many years, they would amaze you by turning into pure gold.* |  |
| *Most children would have been delighted by this cake. Most grown-ups would have thrown it away after one brief glance at the frosting.* |  |