Characterisation in ‘I’m the King of the Castle’ Hooper: Chapters 1-5

As one of the main characters, it is important to gain an understanding of Hooper’s character. Susan Hill describes the two boys as ‘not normal’.

Task:

Find quotes for the given descriptions and analyse them. Try to pick out key words where possible.

Complete the table with adjectives of your own, or find more quotes for those listed.

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| **Hooper is...**  | **Quote**  | **Analysis**  |
| A predatory person  | ‘When he first saw the crow, he took no notice. There had been several crows.’  | The crow is symbolic of Hooper. ‘The’ - definite article singles out Hooper and the crow as being of particular significance (in terms of power, effect, etc.); there is also the analogy to bullies. Kingshaw has had frequent exposure to bullies, but never such ‘relentless persecution’ as this.  |
| A predatory person |  |  |
| A loner  |  |  |
| Not normal |  |  |
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Characterisation in ‘I’m the King of the Castle’ Kingshaw: Chapters 1-5

As one of the main characters, it is important to gain an understanding of Kingshaw’s character. Susan Hill describes the two boys as ‘not normal’.

Task:

Find quotes for the given descriptions and analyse them. Try to pick out key words where possible.

Complete the table with adjectives of your own, or find more quotes for those listed.

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| **Kingshaw is...**  | **Quote**  | **Analysis**  |
| A victim  | ‘Kingshaw lay and thought, they will come on to me...That was the way things happened.’  | Focalisation and flashback are both used to reveal Kingshaw’s background. We see him as a victim at school, with little self-confidence. We are reminded of how young he is to believe in this curse. The sentence is suggestive of Kingshaw’s defeatist attitude.  |
| A victim |  |  |
| Isolated  |  |  |
| Moral  |  |  |
| Not normal  |  |  |
| Fatalistic |  |  |
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