

CRAFTING INCREDIBLE *Characters*

A Detailed Guide to Developing Well-Rounded
Characters That Leap Off The Page



Kristen Kieffer

Welcome To The Workbook

Hey, writer! I'm so glad you decided to pick up this workbook today.

I've always said that characters are the backbone of any good story. It's their desires that drive the plot forward, their motivations that pull on readers' emotions, their weaknesses that keep tensions running high...

By crafting well-developed characters, you lay the groundwork for a story that hooks readers in and refuses to let go. But how can you know if you've truly crafted incredible characters for your book?

The guided questions throughout this workbook are specifically designed to put you at ease, making the process of crafting characters that leap off the page in full-fledged glory simple, sure, and powerful.

This workbook is comprised of nine major sections, each with their own activities and guided questions. The sections and activities were designed to be completed in chronological order, but don't be afraid to skip between sections as best fits your characterization process.

You may wish to complete this workbook several times over for each major character in your story. To do so, simply print the workbook as many times as needed, or click File > Save As and save multiple copies of the workbook to your computer.

You may also find it helpful to print multiple copies of certain pages throughout this workbook to properly complete your character reference guide. To do so, simply open your print options, identify the individual page or page range you'd like to copy, and press print.

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DEFINING THE BASICS

Defining The Basics

Who is your character?

Real people are not a sum of the identification boxes they check on job applications and tax return forms, but these basic elements do, in most cases, hold some measure of sway over a person's life experiences.

Getting to know who your character is at surface level is not only the most obvious place to begin the characterization process, but the wisest one.

Defining the basic realities of your character's life will lay the groundwork for every aspect of their overall characterization, so don't skip this section if you're eager to build a strong, well-developed character.

Activity #1: Lay the groundwork for your character.

Use the questions on the next several pages to begin defining who your character is at surface level so you can build a powerful foundation for your character.

Defining The Basics

Question #1: Use the space below to brain dump what you already know about the character you wish to create.

Defining The Basics

Question #2: What is your character's full name? No worries if you're unsure. We'll cover names in the next section of our workbook.

Question #3: What is your character's age?

Question #4: What is your character's race? In other words, which biological people group(s) does your character belong to?

Examples: Asian, African, European, Native American, Polynesian, etc.

Defining The Basics

Question #5: What is your character's ethnicity? In other words, what culture(s) does your character identify as belonging to because of their ancestry or upbringing?

Examples: Scottish, Han Chinese, Igbo, Jewish, Mexican, Turkish, etc.

Question #6: What are your character's sexual orientation and gender identity?

Defining The Basics

Question #7: What is your character's level of education? Examples: high school graduate, college graduate, Ph.D. student, etc.

Question #8: What is your character's marital or relationship status?

Question #9: What is your character's current employment status? If your character is employed, what is their work?

Defining The Basics

Question #10: What are your character's religious or spiritual beliefs?

Question #11: Who lives in your character's immediate household?

Question #12: Does your character have children? If so, how many?

**WHAT'S
IN A
NAME?**

What's In A Name?

Have you given much thought to your character's name?

Names are powerful. They tell readers a good deal about your character the moment they spring onto the page. Background, history, personality, lifestyle...all of this and more can be highlighted within a single title.

If you're writing fantasy or science fiction, names are especially important within fictional story worlds, where naming systems also reveal vital information about the world's cultures and societies.

But finding the right name for your characters is often easier said than done. That's why we're breaking it down step by step in this section of our workbook!

Activity #1: Choose a first name.

Your character's given name is likely the most important moniker you'll choose. After all, it's the one readers will know them by!

Use the questions in the following activity to make sure you choose the perfect first name for your character.

What's In A Name?

Question #1: In what year or era was your character born?

Question #2: What baby names were popular in the year your character was born? Take some time now to research if you're unsure.

Question #3: Who were some of the prominent political or pop culture figures at the time of your character's birth?

What's In A Name?

Question #4: What were your character's parents interested in at the time of your character's birth? Examples: a book series or movie, a musician or band, a sports team, an artist or poet, a specific religion or spirituality?

Question #5: Could your character have been named after any figures related to their parent's interests? List possible names below.

Question #6: Could your character have been named after any ancestors or close friends or family members? List possible names below.

What's In A Name?

Question #7: What kind of lifestyle did your character's parents live at the time of your character's birth? Examples: wealthy, eclectic, intellectual, religious, hippie, etc.

Question #8: What names might your character's parents have chosen to give their child based on their lifestyle?

Question #9: Are there any other names that might hold special meaning for your character's parents? Examples: Grace or Hope, London or Brooklyn.

What's In A Name?

Question #10: Do you want your character's first name to hold any special meaning within the context of your story? If so, how? What names might represent this meaning?

Question #11: Consider your character's personality and demeanor. (More on this in a later section if you're unsure.) What names might best fit your character based on these elements?

Question #12: Review your answers to the questions in this activity. Find a first name you love? Write it in the space below.

What's In A Name?

Activity #2: Choosing a last name.

Don't neglect the power of a perfectly chosen family name. Use the questions on the following pages to brainstorm the right last name for your character.

Question #1: Consider your character's ethnic background. What last names are commonly associated with their ancestry?

Question #2: If your character's parents or ancestors did not belong to the predominant ethnic group in their society, might they have changed or adjusted their last name to better assimilate? How so?

What's In A Name?

Question #3: Did your character's parents wish to give both of their last names to their children? Or did your character take on multiple last names after an adoption, a parents' remarriage, or some other similar event?

Question #4: Do you want your character's last name to hold any special meaning within the context of your story? If so, how? What names might represent this meaning?

Question #5: Consider your character's personality and demeanor. (More on this in a later section if you're unsure.) What last names might best fit your character based on these elements?

What's In A Name?

Question #6: Review your answers to the questions in this activity. Find a last name you love? Write it in the space below.

Activity #3: Don't forget nicknames!

The nicknames that other characters bestow upon your character can reveal much about their backstory and relationship. Knowing this, take some time to work out your character's nicknames now.

Question #1: What nicknames might your character be called based on their first name?

What's In A Name?

Question #2: What nicknames might your character be called based on their last name?

Question #3: Consider your character's backstory. (More on this in a later section if you're unsure.) What nicknames might they have received based on events in their past?

Question #4: Consider your character's personality. (More on this in a later section if you're unsure.) What nicknames might they have received based on their traits?

What's In A Name?

Question #5: Have any of your character's family members given them a nickname or term of endearment? If so, what is it and why was it given to them?

Question #6: Have your character's friends given them a nickname or term of endearment? If so, what is it and why was it given to them?

Question #7: Have any other acquaintances given your character a nickname? If so, what is it and why was it given to them?

What's In A Name?

Activity #4: Jeers and slander.

Sometimes, names are used with cruel intentions. Use the following questions to determine any names used to bully or degrade your character.

Question #1: Does your character hate any of the nicknames they've been given? If so, which ones? Who gave the name to them, and why do they hate it?

What's In A Name?

Question #2: How does your character react when called each of these names? How do they act outwardly when each name is used?

Question #3: How do these names affect your character's mindset? What emotions, memories, insecurities, etc. does each name dredge up?

MAKING AN APPEARANCE

Making An Appearance

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder...

While each reader will envision your character in their own way, there's no denying that your character's appearance can speak volumes about who they are and how they live.

From the color of their hair and skin, to what they wear and how they wear it, and beyond, your character's appearance serves as a powerful characterization tool.

But we're not stopping there!

In addition to mapping out your character's basic appearance in this section of our workbook, you'll also dig into how appearance affects perception, both how your character perceives themselves and what first impressions they make upon others.

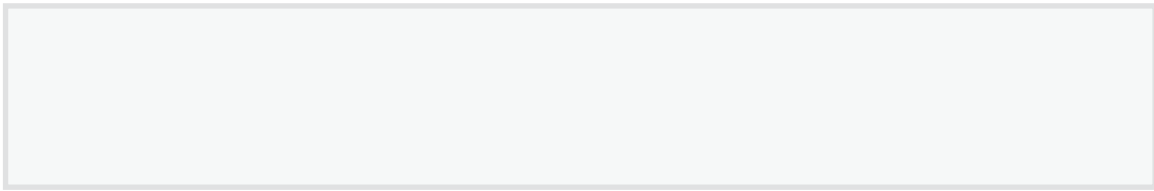
Activity #1: Body basics.

Use the questions on the next several pages to define your character's basic appearance.

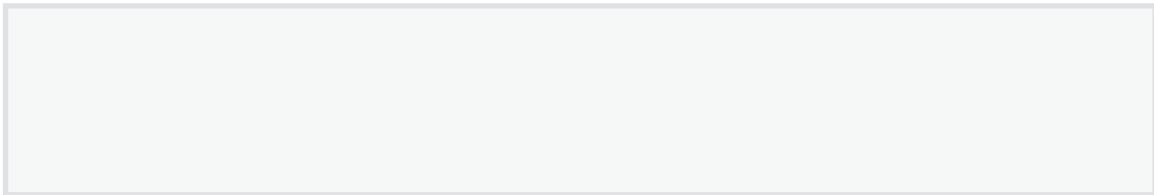
Knowing and including these elements in your story will help give shape to your readers' vision of your character.

Making An Appearance

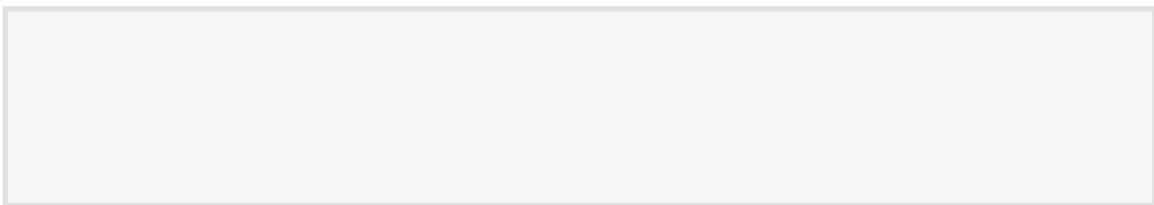
Question #1: What are your character's hair color and texture?



Question #2: What are your character's eye color and shape?

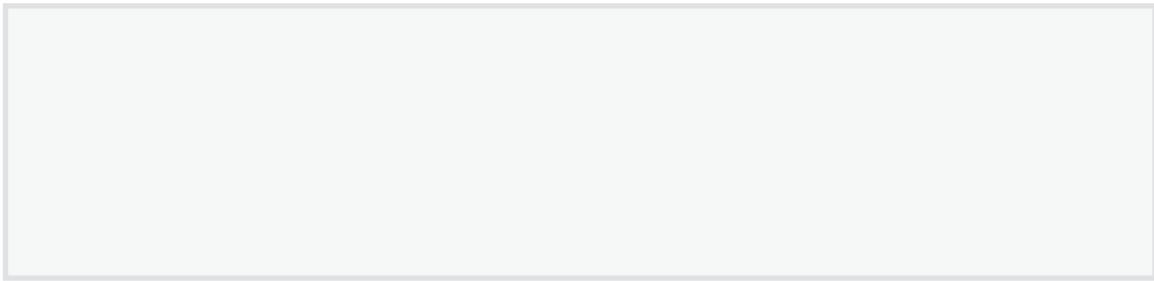


Question #3: What are your character's skin color, tone, and texture?

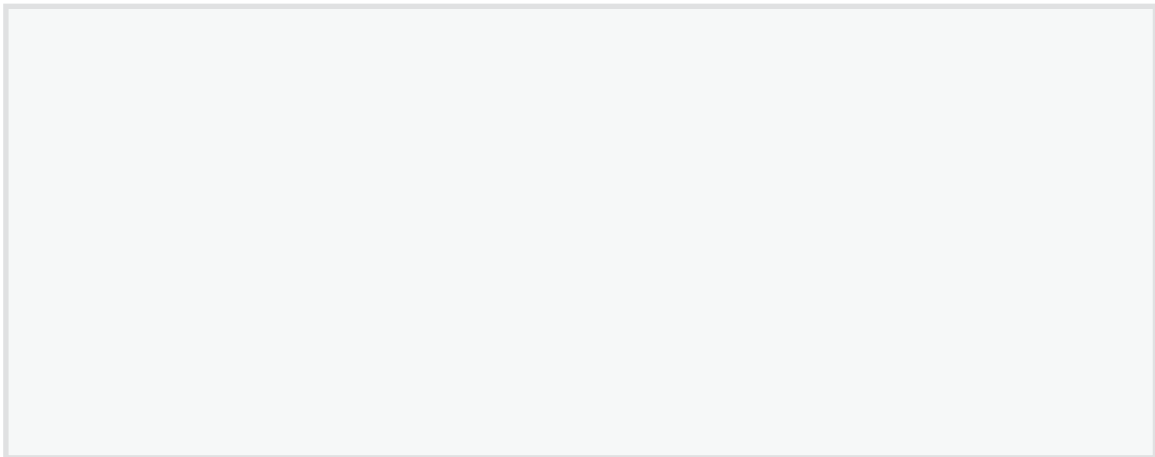


Making An Appearance

Question #4: What is your character's build (e.g. height, weight, frame)?



Question #5: In the space below, describe your character's facial features.



Making An Appearance

Question #6: Does your character have any scars? If so, describe both the scar(s) and how your character received them below.

Question #7: Does your character have any other markings, such as freckles, moles, acne, or birthmarks on their skin?

Making An Appearance

Question #8: What is your character's most prominent feature(s)? What do others first notice upon meeting them?

Question #9: Does your character have any visible physical disabilities or disfigurements? Describe them below.

Making An Appearance

Activity #2: Express yourself.

Answer the questions on the following pages to determine how your character expresses themselves through their everyday appearance.

Question #1: What is your character's typical hairstyle? (If their style changes depending on whom they are with, describe this below as well.)

Making An Appearance

Question #2: Does your character wear makeup? If so, describe their typical look below. (If they change their look depending on whom they are with, describe this below as well.)

Question #3: How would you describe your character's fashion sense?
Describe the clothing they wear on a typical day.

Making An Appearance

Question #4: What does your character wear for specific tasks or events, such as work, a date night, a ceremony, etc?

Question #5: Does your character's physical presentation reveal any markers of their lifestyle? For example: sunburned skin, calloused hands, a beer belly, expensive shoes, paint on their hands, etc.

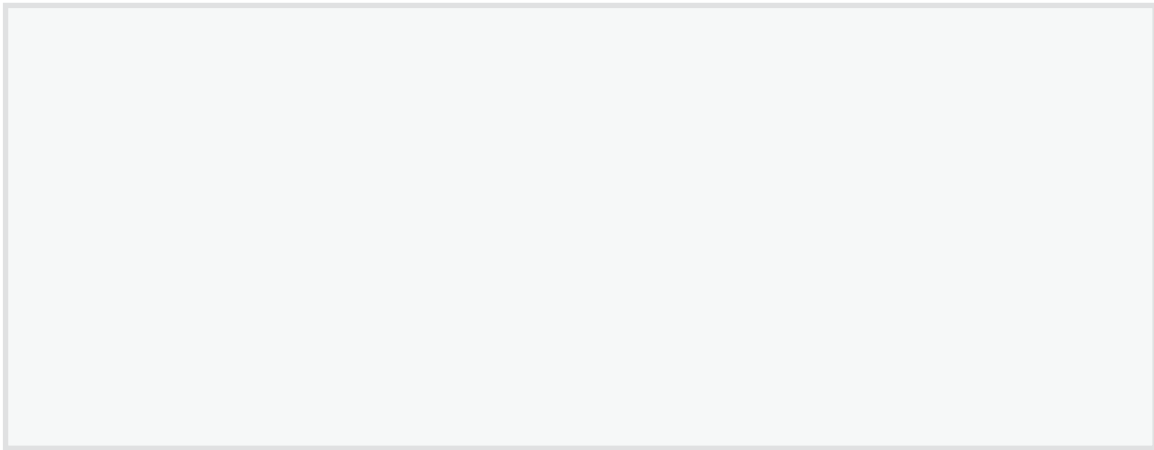
Making An Appearance

Question #6: How does your character carry themselves? Consider their posture, eye contact, gait, etc. (If these elements change depending on whom your character is with, describe this below.)

Question #7: What does your character's overall presentation immediately say about them? For example: Are they lazy or vain? Do they live a natural, hippie lifestyle? Do they have children?

Making An Appearance

Question #8: Why does your character present themselves the way they do? Are they happy with their presentation or is it affected negatively by an experience, circumstance, or mindset? If the latter, how so?

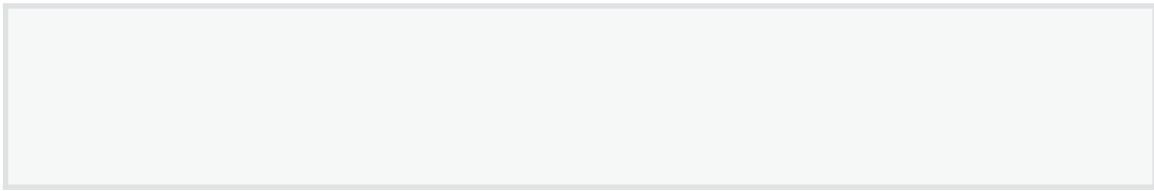


Activity #3: It's body language, baby.

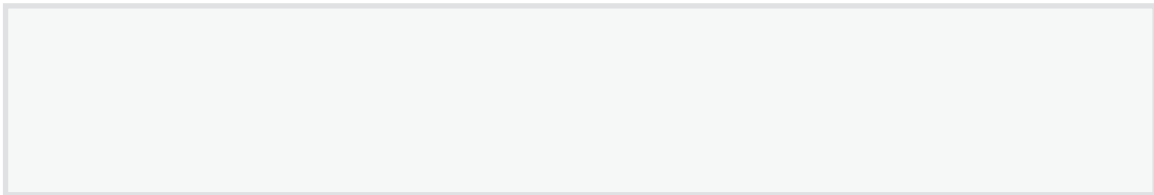
Your character's mannerisms and expressions play a major role in how they are perceived. Outline these details on the following pages to bring your character's appearance to life!

Making An Appearance

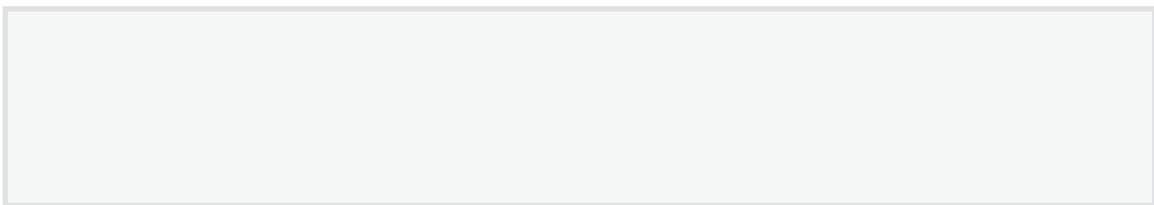
Question #1: How does your character act or appear when they're happy?



Question #2: How do they act or appear when they're sad?



Question #3: How do they act or appear when they're excited?



Making An Appearance

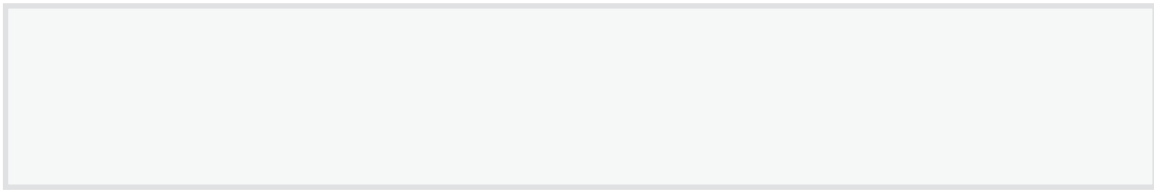
Question #4: How do they act or appear when they're disappointed?

Question #5: How do they act or appear when they're anxious?

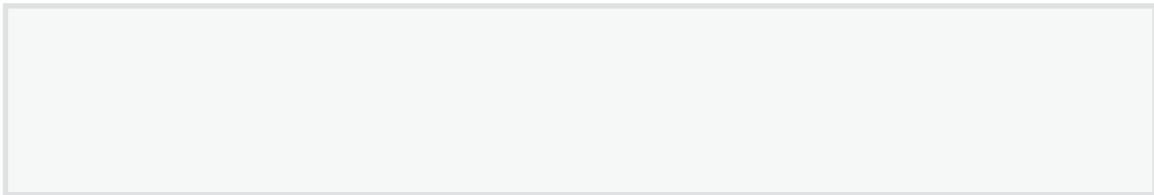
Question #6: How do they act or appear when they're angry?

Making An Appearance

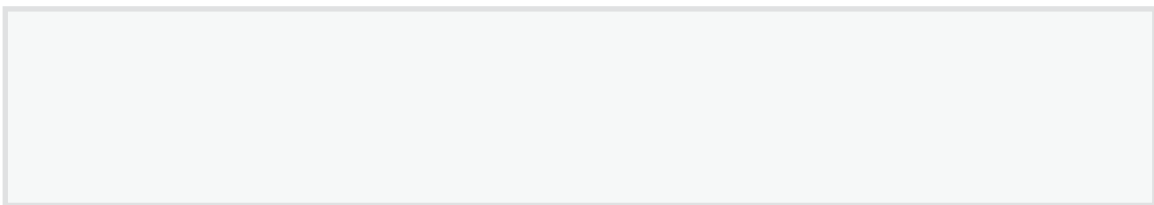
Question #7: How do they act or appear when they're annoyed?



Question #8: How do they act or appear when they're afraid?



Question #9: Does your character have any quirky or unusual mannerisms?



Making An Appearance

Activity #4: It's all about perception.

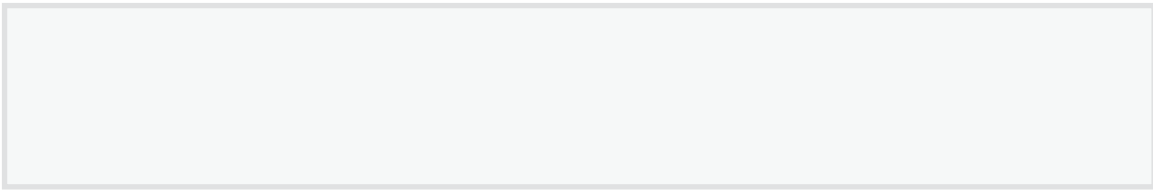
How does your character's appearance affect how they perceive themselves and how others perceive them in return? Answer these questions using this final activity on appearance.

Question #1: What does your character love about their appearance and presentation?

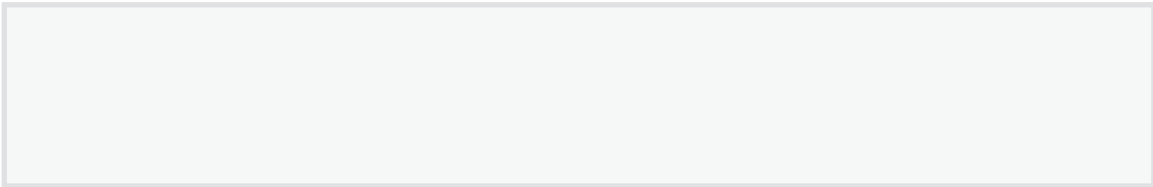
Question #2: What is your character unhappy with about their appearance and presentation?

Making An Appearance

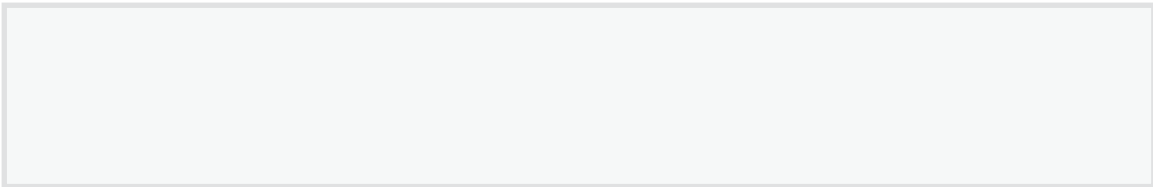
Question #3: How does your character's self-perception affect their confidence and mindset?



Question #4: How do your character's parents or elders perceive their appearance and presentation?

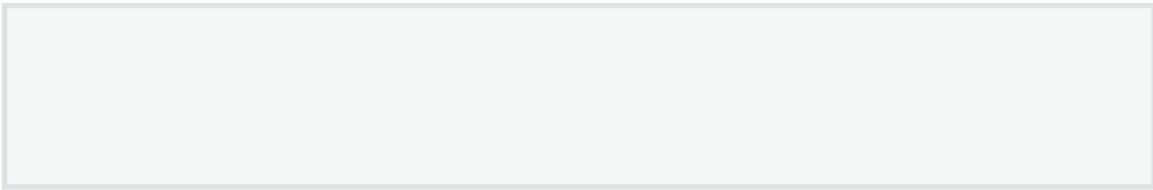


Question #5: How do your character's friends perceive their appearance and presentation?

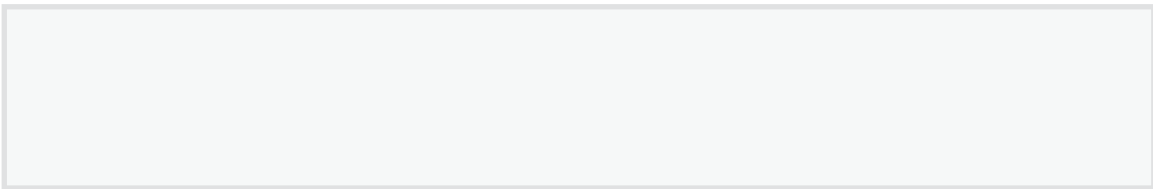


Making An Appearance

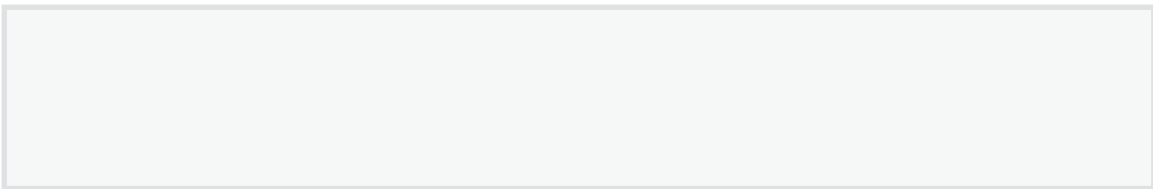
Question #6: How does your character's love interest perceive their appearance and presentation?



Question #7: How does your character's boss and/or colleagues perceive their appearance and presentation?



Question #8: How do strangers perceive your character's appearance and presentation?



BACK- GROUND CHECK

Background Check

It's time to give some thought to your character's backstory.

Backstory refers to your character's history, the events that occurred in their life before your story begins. This history adds to your character's depth, making them more than meets the eye.

That said, readers don't need to know your character's entire history. Too much backstory can actually weigh a story down, filling it with excessive flashbacks and narratives that leave readers feeling worn.

Instead, any backstory included in your story should focus on revealing how past events and experiences have shaped your character into the person they are today.

From relationships to mindsets to emotions and more, let's break down your character's backstory in this section of our workbook.

Activity #1: Laying the groundwork.

The questions on the following pages will help you map out the key players and events in your character's past, helping you lay the groundwork for the person they are at the start of your story.

Background Check

Question #1: Who are your character's parents? What was their relationship like during your character's childhood?

Question #2: In the space below, describe your character's relationship with their mother during their upbringing. What did their mother teach them, how did their mother's parenting affect them, and what impactful memories—whether positive or negative—do they share?

Note: If your character's mother was not present, is there another mother figure you could describe? (Additional space provided on the next page.)

Background Check

Question #3: In the space below, describe your character's relationship with their father during their upbringing. What did their father teach them, how did their father's parenting affect them, and what impactful memories—whether positive or negative—do they share?

Note: If your character's father was not present, is there another father figure you could describe? (Additional space provided on next page.)

Background Check

Question #4: Does your character have any siblings? If so, describe their relationship growing up together below.

Background Check

Question #5: Were there any other family members or family friends who made an impact—whether positive or negative—on your character during their childhood? If so, describe their relationship below.

Question #6: Growing up, who were some of your character's closest friends? How did these relationships shape your character?

Background Check

Question #7: Where did your character grow up and what were their economic circumstances? How did these elements affect them?

Question #8: What kind of lifestyle did your character grow up living? For example: conservative, hippie, religious, eccentric, etc. How did this lifestyle affect your character?

Background Check

Question #9: Was your character raised to practice a particular religion?

If so, how did this practice affect them? Do they still practice at the start of your story?

Question #10: Describe your character's education. How has their education shaped them by the start of your story?

Background Check

Question #11: What were some of the happiest moments of your character's childhood? How did these moments affect them?

Question #12: What were some of the saddest moments of your character's childhood? How did these moments affect them?

Background Check

Question #13: What were some of the most embarrassing moments of your character's childhood? How did these moments affect them?

Question #14: Did your character face trauma—such as abuse, near-death experiences, or accidents—growing up? How did these events affect them?

Background Check

Question #15: Growing up, did your character go through any unusual or negative experiences (e.g. bullying, frequent moves, travels abroad) that shaped them in any way? How so?

Question #16: Growing up, did your character face any health scares, mental illnesses, or learning disabilities? How did these elements affect them?

**THROUGH
THEIR EYES**

Through Their Eyes

How does your character see the world?

It's easy to project our own beliefs and worldview on our point-of-view character, writing their stories through the lens of how we would approach them, but doing so kills good characterization in the blink of an eye.

Instead, as writers, it's our duty to move outside ourselves and see our character's journey through the lens of their own thinking.

This can be tricky no matter how well prepared you are to write, but taking the time to lay out your character's beliefs, personality, mindsets, and more can have a major impact on your ability to write your character and their story authentically.

Activity #1: What in the world?

Your character's worldview is a result of their upbringing and life experiences, and it's a vital element of characterization.

Use the questions on the following pages to define your character's worldview, so you can better see the world through their eyes as you write.

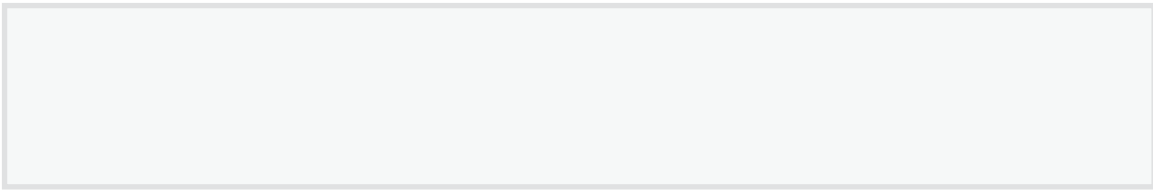
Through Their Eyes

Question #1: Is your character an optimist, a pessimist, or a realist? How does their outlook affect them in both positive and negative ways?

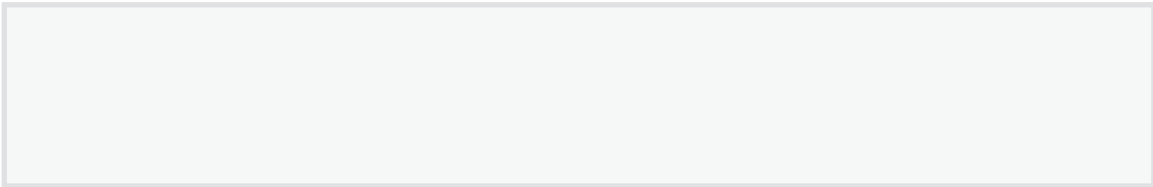
Question #2: Is your character an introvert, an extrovert, or an ambivert? How does this manifest itself in their everyday life?

Through Their Eyes

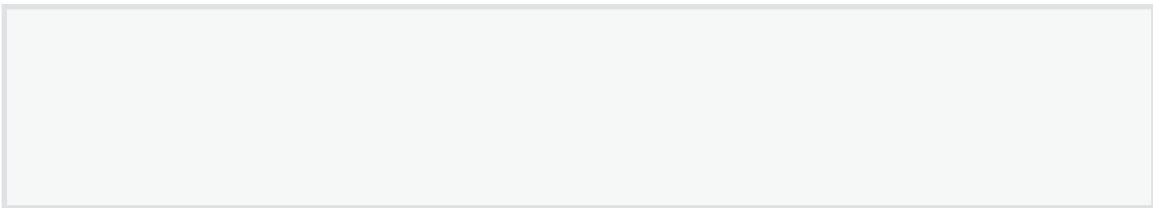
Question #3: What moral and ethical beliefs does your character stand for?



Question #4: Where does your character stand on prominent political and social issues?

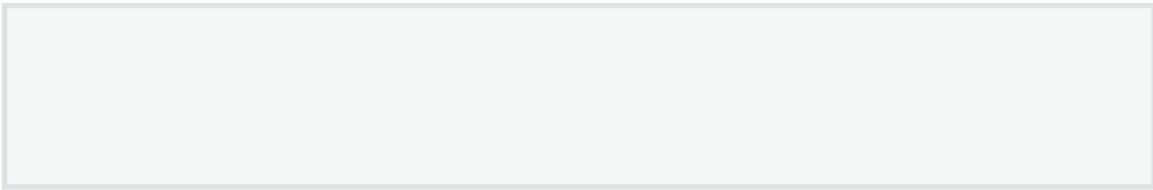


Question #5: What is your character's viewpoint on money and finances?

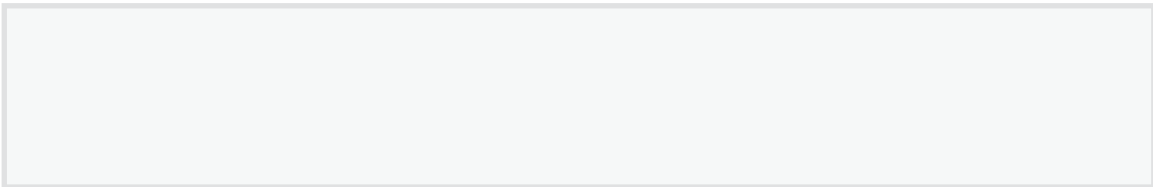


Through Their Eyes

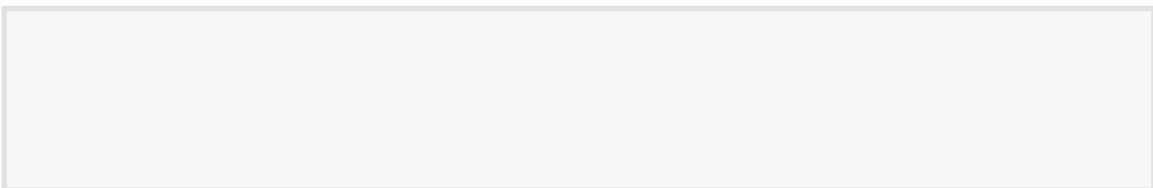
Question #6: What is your character's viewpoint on religion and/or spirituality?



Question #7: What is your character's viewpoint on science, the arts, and education?

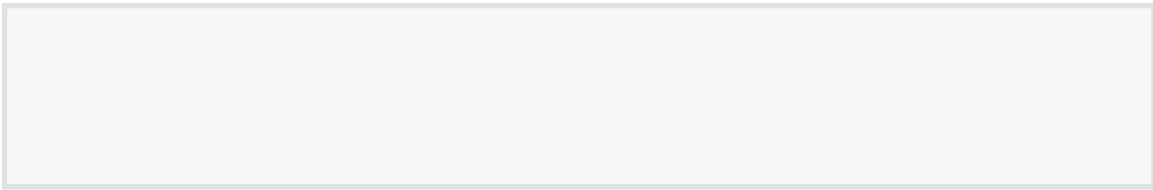


Question #8: Does your character actively give back to their community or serve humanity in some way? If so, how do they do so?

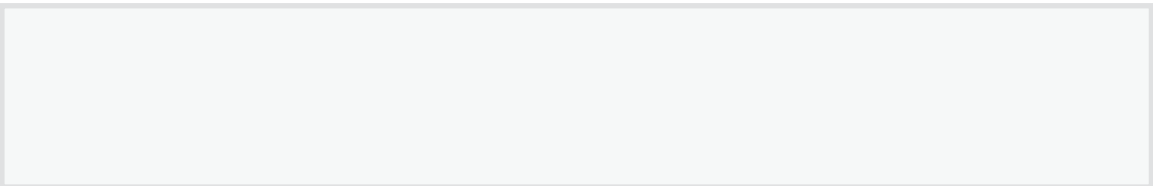


Through Their Eyes

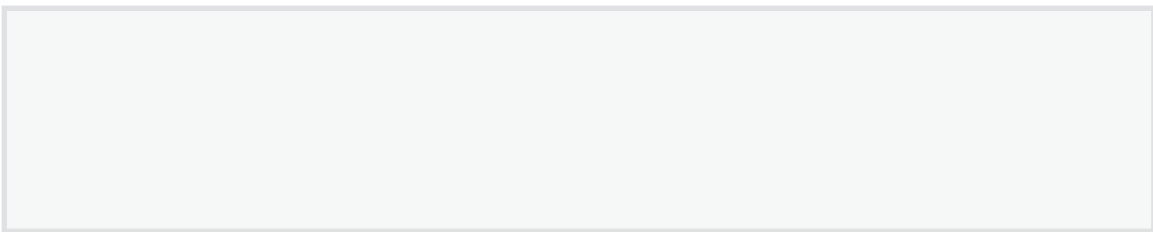
Question #9: Whom in society does your character admire? Consider activists, scientists, political and religious leaders, writers, artists, etc.



Question #10: Whom in society does your character disdain?

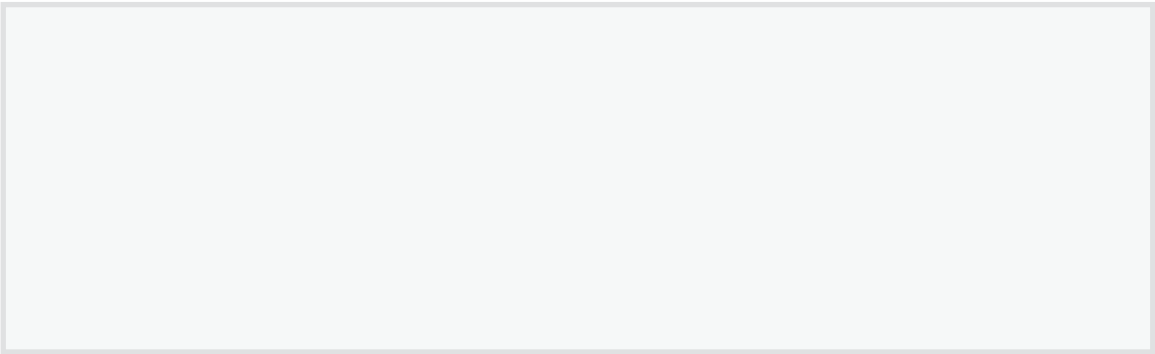


Question #11: What or who is the most important thing in your character's life? Why is this so?

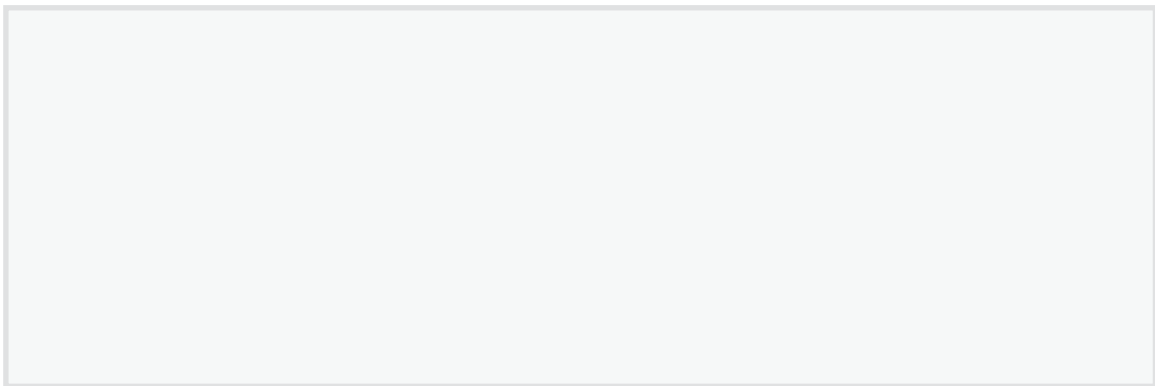


Through Their Eyes

Question #12: What is your character's ideal vision for their life? What do they believe would make them most happy?



Question #13: Could anything cause your character to view their life as a failure or to harbor deep regret? If so, describe the situation below.



Through Their Eyes

Activity #2: Let your personality shine.

Your character's personality will have a large impact on how they see and interact with the world around them, which is why defining it is key to getting inside your character's head.

On the following page, you will find a basic personality chart, in which you can select the traits you believe your character most embodies.

However, to truly gain a full understanding of your character's personality and how it shapes them, I recommend utilizing the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, or MBTI test.

You can take a version of this personality test for free at [16personalities.com](https://www.16personalities.com). Remember to complete the test from your character's perspective, not your own!

After completing the test, return to the workbook and write down your character's MBTI assessment results in the spaces provided later in this activity.

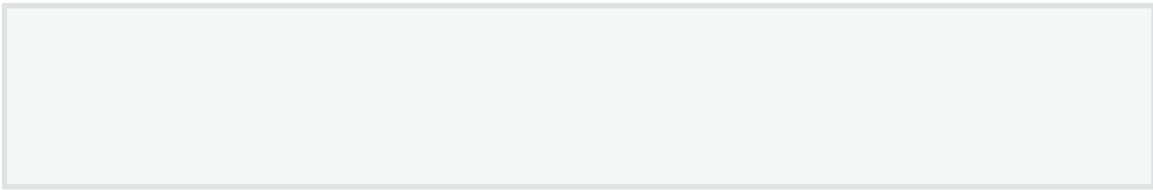
Through Their Eyes

What are some of your character's personality traits? Are they...

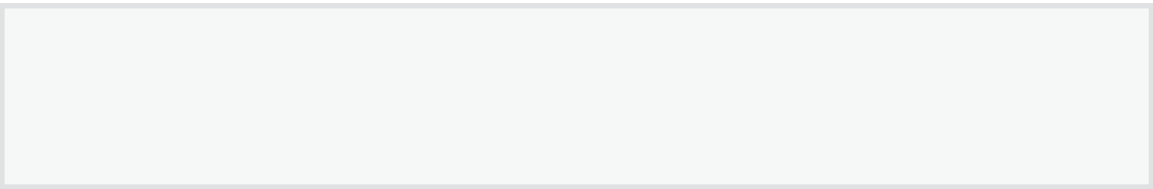
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|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introverted | <input type="checkbox"/> Extroverted | <input type="checkbox"/> Adventurous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cautious | <input type="checkbox"/> Confident | <input type="checkbox"/> Insecure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cynical | <input type="checkbox"/> Trustworthy | <input type="checkbox"/> Dishonest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gullible | <input type="checkbox"/> Blunt | <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curious | <input type="checkbox"/> Indifferent | <input type="checkbox"/> Independent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kind | <input type="checkbox"/> Grouchy | <input type="checkbox"/> Compassionate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Humble | <input type="checkbox"/> Arrogant | <input type="checkbox"/> Loud |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Envious | <input type="checkbox"/> Content | <input type="checkbox"/> Calm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Perceptive | <input type="checkbox"/> Ignorant | <input type="checkbox"/> Intelligent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proud | <input type="checkbox"/> Humble | <input type="checkbox"/> Talkative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relaxed | <input type="checkbox"/> Anxious | <input type="checkbox"/> Serious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playful | <input type="checkbox"/> Fearless | <input type="checkbox"/> Observant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Persistent | <input type="checkbox"/> Charming | <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reliable | <input type="checkbox"/> Apathetic | <input type="checkbox"/> Obnoxious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Imaginative | <input type="checkbox"/> Giving | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-centered |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vain | <input type="checkbox"/> Sarcastic | <input type="checkbox"/> Sullen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rude | <input type="checkbox"/> Cowardly | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarrelsome |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stingy | <input type="checkbox"/> Bossy | <input type="checkbox"/> Vulgar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friendly | <input type="checkbox"/> Inept | <input type="checkbox"/> Clumsy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shy | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-deprecating | <input type="checkbox"/> Lazy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Optimistic | <input type="checkbox"/> Pessimistic | <input type="checkbox"/> Realistic |

Through Their Eyes

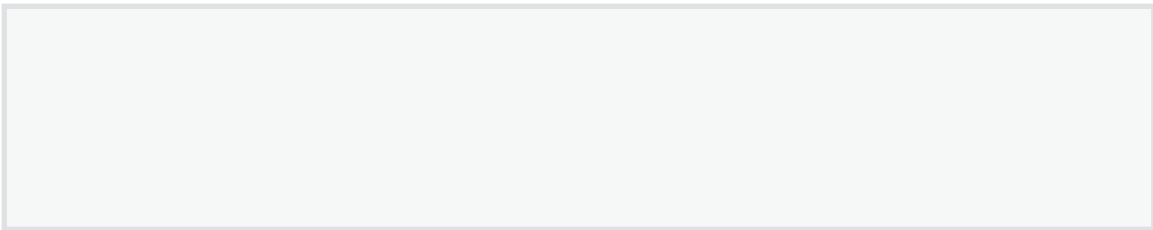
Question #1: What MBTI type is your character, and what does each of the letters in their type stand for?



Question #2: According to 16 Personalities, what are your character's strengths?



Question #3: According to 16 Personalities, what are your character's weaknesses?



Through Their Eyes

Question #4: According to 16 Personalities, how are your character's romantic relationships likely to play out?

Question #5: According to 16 Personalities, how are your character's friendships likely to play out?

Question #6: According to 16 Personalities, how is your character likely to act as a parent?

Through Their Eyes

Question #7: Use the space below to write down any remaining notes gathered as you work through your character's MBTI assessment.

Through Their Eyes

Activity #3: It's all about perception.

Both self-perception and others' first impressions are just as much defined by your character's personality and worldview as they are by their appearance.

Use the questions in the following activity to define how your character views themselves and is viewed by others.

Question #1: What does your character consider their personal strengths (e.g. their intelligence, creativity, cunning, compassion, etc.)? Why do they believe they possess these strengths?

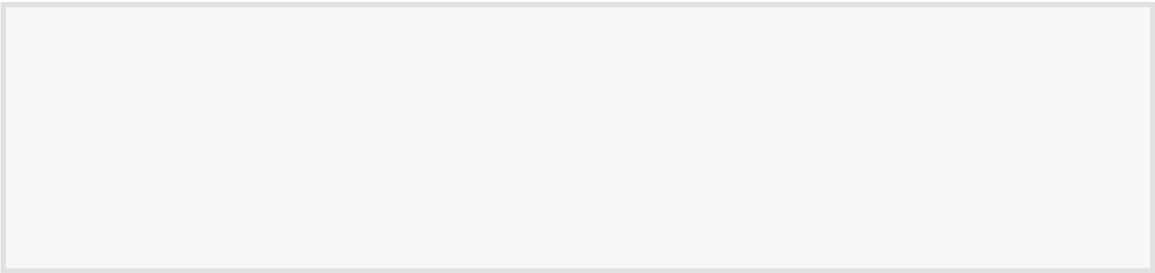
Through Their Eyes

Question #2: How do your character's strengths aid them in achieving their definitions of happiness and success?

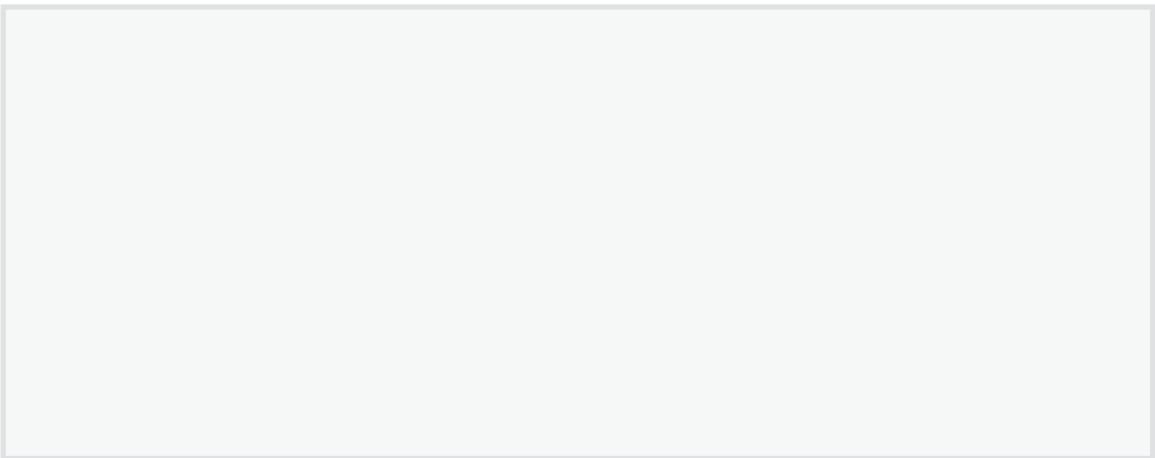
Question #3: What does your character consider their personal weaknesses (e.g. their anger, stubbornness, vanity, greed, etc.)? Why do they believe they possess these weaknesses?

Through Their Eyes

Question #4: How do your character's weaknesses keep them from achieving their definitions of happiness and success?



Question #5: Does your character have any strengths or weaknesses they aren't yet aware of at the start of your story? If so, describe them below.



Through Their Eyes

Question #6: Is there anything your character wishes they could change about their personality? If so, describe it below.

Question #7: Is your character actively working on personal development? If so, describe how they're doing so in the space below.

Through Their Eyes

Question #8: What do others believe your character's strengths to be?

Question #9: What do others believe your character's weaknesses to be?

**JUST BE
YOURSELF**

Just Be Yourself

At this point in our workbook, you likely have a strong understanding of who your character is.

But that doesn't mean the characterization process is through. Now, it's time to discover the elements that give your character life, adding to their realism and individuality.

Elements like interests, annoyances, and emotional responses are all touchstones that readers can draw upon in an effort to connect with your character.

Without connection, your story's conflict will spoil. Readers simply won't care what happens to your character if they don't feel some sort of connection with them, so don't skip this vital section of our workbook!

Activity #1: Likes and dislikes.

How often do you bond with new acquaintances over shared interests or disinterests? Likely quite often, right? This is, after all, how people make friends.

That's why we're taking time now to map out your character's likes and dislikes. Connection, here we come!

Just Be Yourself

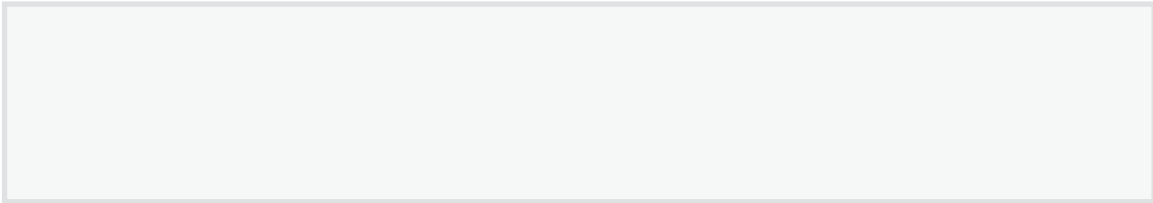
Question #1: What are your character's hobbies? List them below.

Question #2: Whom does your character enjoy spending time with? List them below.

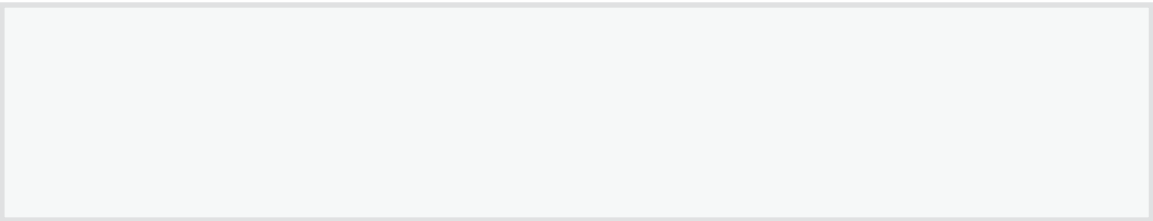
Question #3: Is your character creative? If so, how does your character enjoy creating?

Just Be Yourself

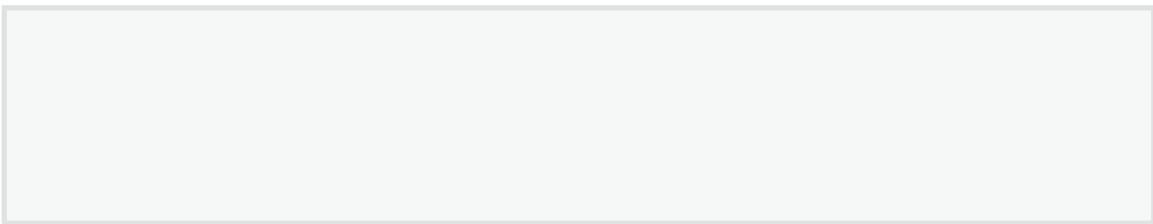
Question #4: What does your character do to relax?



Question #5: Does your character enjoy playing sports or participating in any outdoor activities? If so, list them below.

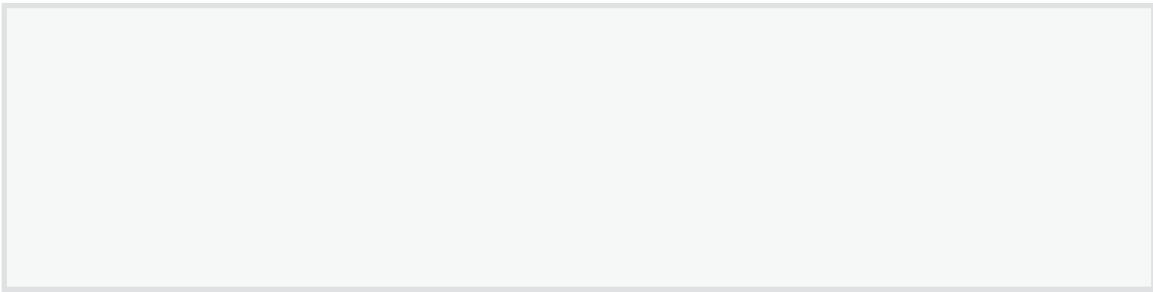


Question #6: Does your character enjoy learning new skills or challenging themselves? If so, list their interests below.

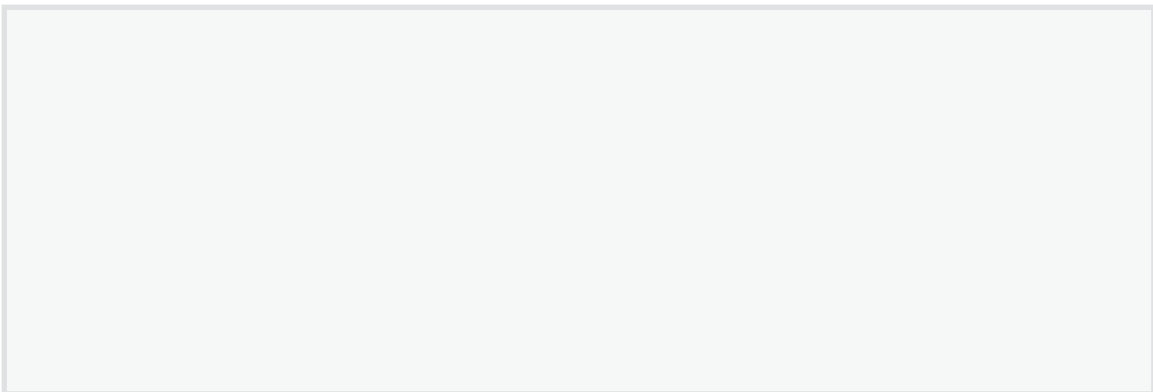


Just Be Yourself

Question #7: What are some of your character's favorite books, movies, or television shows. If these items do not exist in your character's world, what are some of your character's favorite forms of entertainment?



Question #8: Does your character enjoy listening to music? If so, describe the music they enjoy best below. How does it affect them?



Just Be Yourself

Question #9: What are some of your character's favorite foods? Why do they love these foods? Do they draw on nostalgia or tradition, etc.? If so, explain how and why below.

Question #10: What are some of your character's favorite places to visit? Alternatively, where do they wish to travel one day?

Just Be Yourself

Question #11: Does your character have any hobbies or interests they haven't yet begun to explore? If so, write them in the space below.

Question #12: Whom or what does your character find annoying or aggravating?

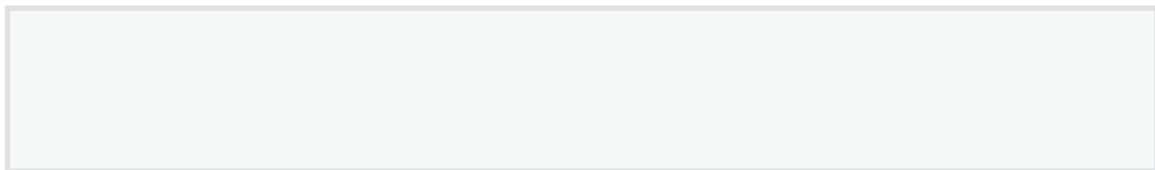
Just Be Yourself

Activity #2: Understanding Emotions.

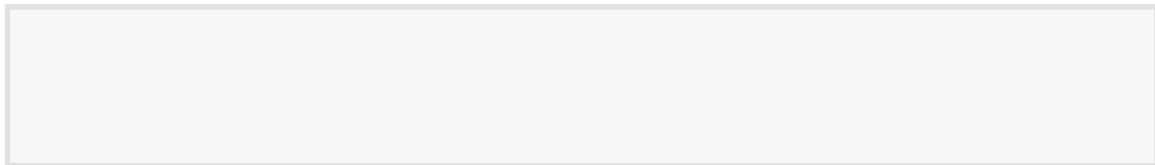
Emotions lie at the heart of the human condition. Use the questions in this activity to help you define who and what spurs your character to experience a vast range of emotions.

You can also refer back to our activity on mannerisms and expressions on page #35 to better understand how your character emotes.

Question #1: Who or what makes your character happy?

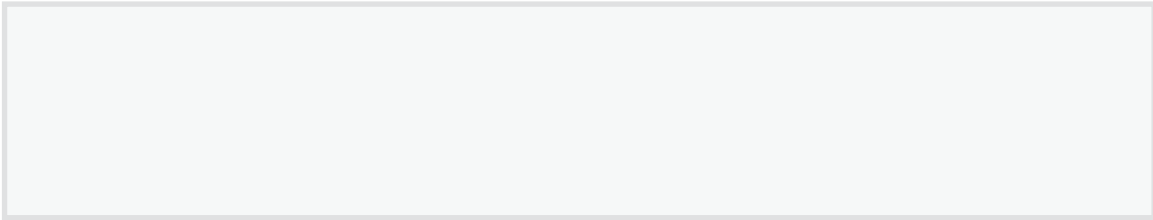


Question #2: Who or what saddens your characters?

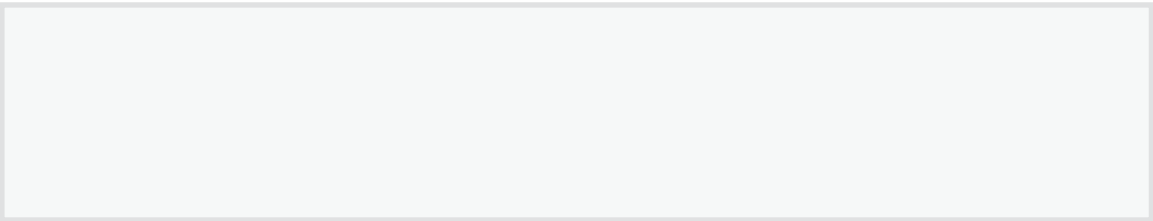


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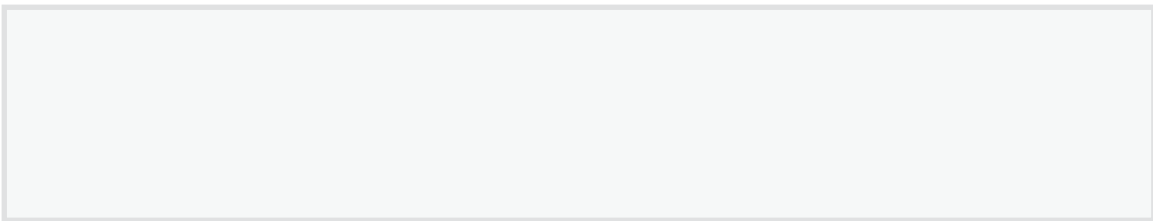
Question #3: Who or what excites your character?



Question #4: Who or what disappoints your character?

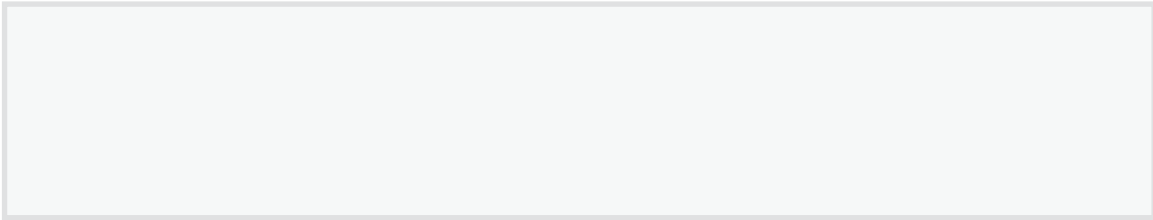


Question #5: Who or what makes your character anxious?

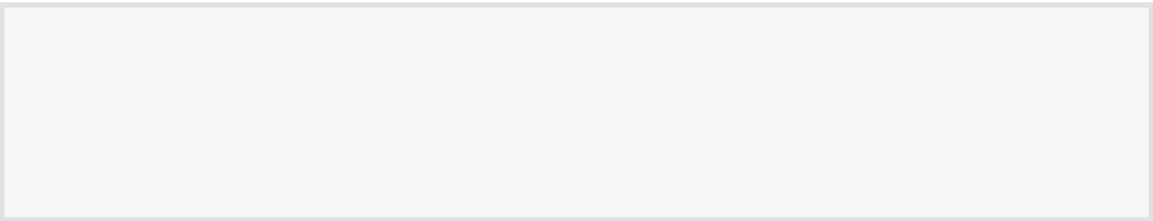


Just Be Yourself

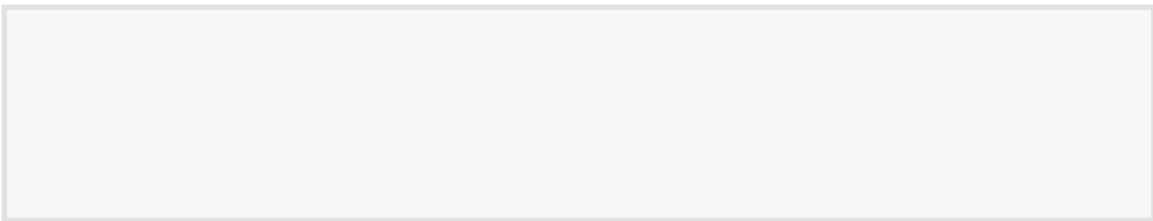
Question #6: Who or what angers your character?



Question #7: Who or what annoys your character?



Question #8: Who or what makes your character afraid?



BUILDING RELATION- SHIPS

Building Relationships

Chances are that your character interacts with others.

And if they do, they've likely built relationships that affect who they are and how they live.

If that's the case with your own character, understanding how each of their important relationships affects them is not only key to understanding their character, but to building out the remaining cast of your story!

So let's get to building relationships, shall we?

Activity #1: Let's connect.

Use the questions on the following pages to explore whom your character has built relationships with and how these relationships affect them for the better or the worse.

When you're finished, return to our activity on emotions on page #77 and ensure that you've fully delved into how your character's relationships impact their emotions.

Building Relationships

Question #1: At the beginning of your story, does your character maintain a relationship with their parents?

Question #2: Do your character's parents offer them support, whether it be emotional, financial, spiritual, etc? If so, how?

Question #3: Do your character's parents hinder their happiness in any way? If so, how?

Building Relationships

Question #4: At the beginning of your story, who are your character's closest friends?

Question #5: Do your character's friends offer them support, whether it be emotional, financial, spiritual, etc? If so, how?

Question #6: Do your character's friends hinder their happiness in any way? If so, how?

Building Relationships

Question #7: How did your character meet each of their closest friends?

Question #8: What do your character and their friends like to do when spending time together?

Building Relationships

Question #9: Do your character and their friends share any inside jokes? If so, describe them below.

Question #10: Does your character make an effort to be a good friend? If so, how?

Building Relationships

Question #11: Does your character have any sort of mentor(s) who offers them advice or teaches them new skills? If so, who they are and how they do so below.

Question #12: Does your character appreciate their mentor's advice or do they find it bothersome or unnecessary? Why do they feel this way?

**SPEAK UP
NOW!**

Speak Up Now!

Language speaks volumes. (Pun most assuredly intended.)

How a person speaks has a major impact on how they are perceived by others, as is the case with your character.

But the way in which your character talks does more than just change the way in which other characters treat them; it also deeply affects your readers' understanding of your character and world.

Understanding your character's speech may seem like a minor concern, all things considered, but think for a moment about your story's dialogue.

Step one to creating dialogue that shines? Authenticity. So let's get to crafting your character's unique voice today!

Activity #1: Use your voice.

The time has come to lend a voice to your character. Use the questions on the following pages to define their words, tone, speech patterns, and more!

Speak Up Now!

Question #1: What language(s) does your character speak?

Question #2: Does your character speak with a specific accent or dialect? If so, what are the hallmarks of the accent/dialect and how did they pick it up?

Question #3: How do others view your character based on their accent or dialect? Are they treated differently because of their way of speaking? If so, how?

Speak Up Now!

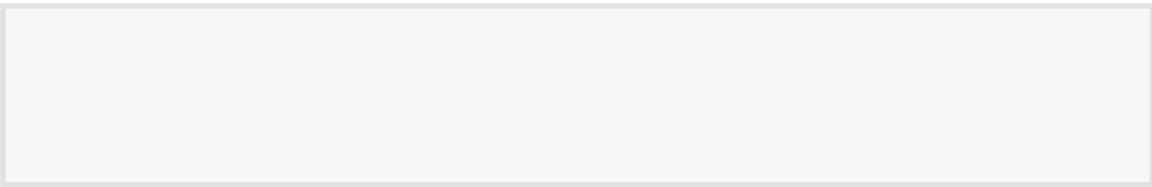
Question #4: Does your character use any quirky sayings or phrases? If so, describe them below.

Question #5: Does your character curse or use vulgar language? When and why do they do so?

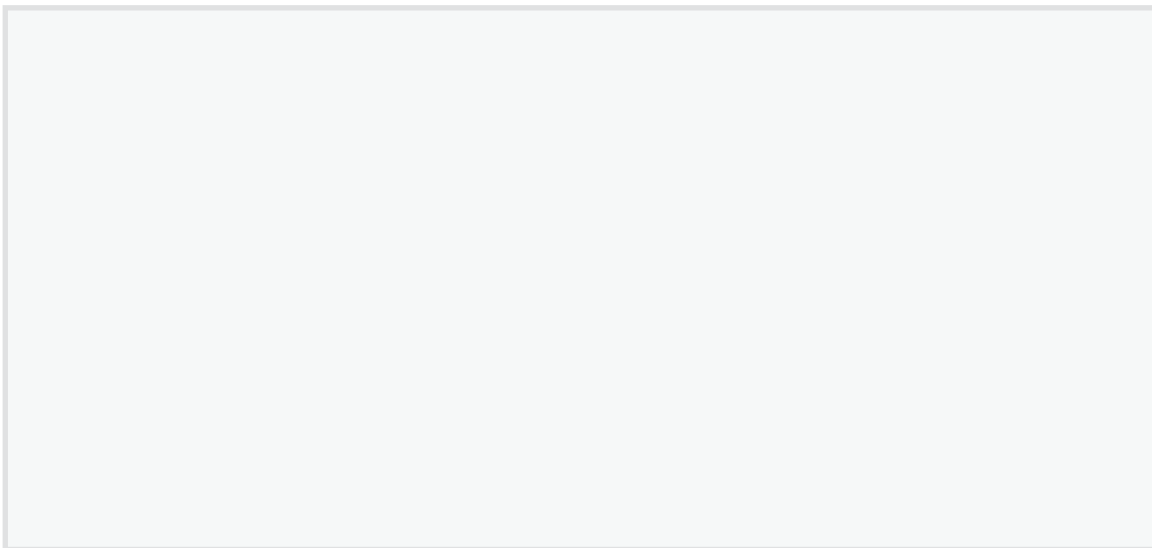
Question #6: At what volume and speed does your character naturally speak?

Speak Up Now!

Question #7: What is your character's general tone of speech? For example, is their voice gruff, lyrical, squeaky, lilting, pointed, etc.

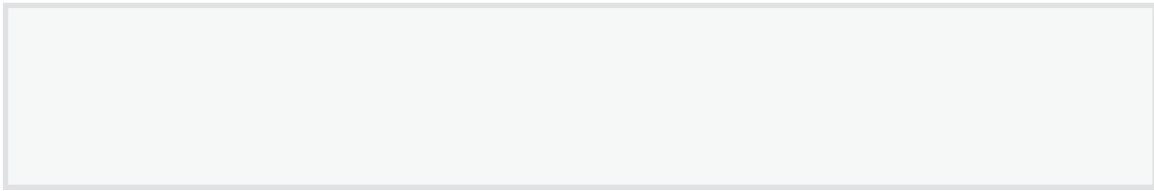


Question #8: Does your character's manner of speaking change around certain people? If so, how and around whom?

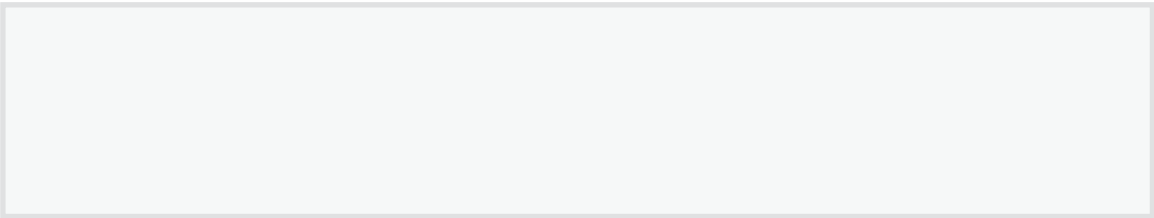


Speak Up Now!

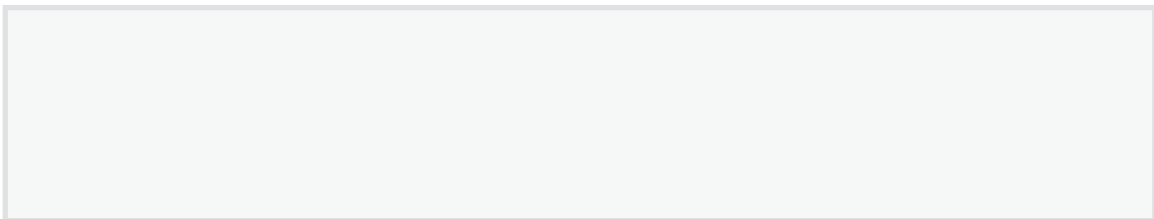
Question #9: Does your character speak often and freely or do they tend to guard their tongue?



Question #10: When is your character most chatty and why?



Question #11: When is your character most quiet and why?



**WHAT DO
YOU WANT?**

What Do You Want?

Every element in your story must serve a purpose.

And that includes each character you choose to include in your story. So what defines your character's purpose?

This will vary from character to character, depending largely on the role they play in your story (e.g. protagonist, antagonist, sidekick, mentor, love interest, etc.).

However, you can easily lend most of the characters in your story a bit of purpose by ensuring they have some stake in the plot. They're unsatisfied, and they want to do something about it.

But just what will they do, and how will it affect the plot? Let's dive into this final section of our workbook!

Activity #1: Goal + motivation = action.

Understanding your character's role in your story is all about defining what they want, why they want it, and how they're going to achieve it.

Use the questions in the following activity to give your character a powerful purpose in your story today.

What Do You Want?

Question #1: What is life like for your character at the beginning of your story? Describe their circumstances and everyday experiences.

Question #2: In what way is your character unsatisfied with their life at the beginning of your story? (This may serve as your character's motivation.)

What Do You Want?

Question #3: What do they believe will fulfill this dissatisfaction? For example: money, career success, marriage, revenge, independence, etc.

Question #4: How does your character hope to achieve or obtain this satisfaction? (This will serve as your character's story goal.)

What Do You Want?

Question #5: In an ideal world, what specific steps would your character take to achieve this goal?

Question #6: Why hasn't your character begun to pursue their goal? If they have, why have they not yet succeeded in attaining it?

What Do You Want?

Question #7: What doubts, fears, flaws, or regrets make it difficult for your character to take the steps needed to achieve their goal? (This is what will create your character's internal arc.)

Question #8: What would your character be willing to sacrifice in order to achieve their goal?

What Do You Want?

Question #9: Who or what makes it difficult for your character to achieve their goal? (This will serve as your character's opposition, creating conflict.)

Question #10: What does your character stand to lose if they don't achieve their goal? (These are your character's stakes.)

What Do You Want?

Question #11: How will or might the actions your character takes to achieve their goal affect their mindset?

Question #12: How will or might the actions your character takes to achieve their goal affect others?

What Do You Want?

Question #13: If your character achieves or obtains what they believe will fulfill them, will it truly bring them satisfaction? If not, what do they truly need to find fulfillment?

Question #14: By the end of your story, who will your character become? How have they changed as a result of their journey?

**YOU HAVE
AN INCREDIBLE
CHARACTER.**

(NOW WHAT?)

From Character To Story

Congratulations on crafting your incredible character, writer!

After spending so long working through this workbook (it was a bit hefty, wasn't it?), you might be feeling a bit overwhelmed. You've created an incredible character or two, but now what?

If you picked up this workbook as your first step toward pre-writing your next big project, then you're well on your way to planning out a story you'll love to write.

If you enjoyed this workbook and you're looking for more guidance as you begin crafting your story's plot, character arcs, settings, themes, and more, I'd recommend checking out The Pre-Write Project.



THE PRE-WRITE PROJECT

As Well-Storied's most popular resource, this 143-page workbook has helped thousands of writers prepare to write masterful stories.

To learn more about The Pre-Write Project and grab your copy today, visit:

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