



CHARACTER

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WORKSHEET

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CHARACTER ARC

If you're an Outliner, you probably want to get to know your character before you get far into the writing. If you're a Pantser like me, you'll be antsy to just get into the writing and get to know your characters as they reveal themselves. There can still be value in this worksheet, but feel free to use what works and skip what doesn't.

Fill in the following with as much detail as you feel you need. It can offer valuable direction for your writing.

ASK YOUR CHARACTER THE FOLLOWING:

Name: _____

Ethnicity: _____

Birthdate: _____

Appearance *(even if you don't use every detail):* _____

Family *(parents, siblings, where he or she fits into the birth order):*

Personal history — Pivotal Life Events: _____

Personality/Attitudes/Worldview: _____

Hobbies: _____

Talents:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Skills

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Accomplishments:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Favorite Sports and Teams: _____

Best Friend: _____

Worst Enemy: _____

Favorite Foods: _____

Favorite Places to Vacation or Work: _____

Favorite Book: _____

Favorite Possession: _____

Goals:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Fears: _____

Secrets: _____

Best Qualities: _____

Worst Qualities: _____

Greatest Passion: _____

CHARACTER ARC

YOUR CHARACTER'S JOURNEY

1. What does your character want *(his novel-worthy goal or challenge)?*

2. What are his external needs/desires?

3. What or who stands in his way and could stop him?

4. What will he do about it?

5. What happens if he fails?

(The stakes must be dire enough to carry an entire novel.)

6. What sacrifices might he have to make?

7. What motivates him inwardly and why?

8. What is his internal struggle?

9. What are his flaws? Is he...

- Needy
- A narcissist
- Shy
- Controlling
- Messy
- Other *(specify)* _____

10. What fundamental changes do you want to see in your character?

11. What heroic qualities must emerge for him to succeed?
