

Character Biography 1 of 9

A good character is a real character, with history, hang-ups, habits and other assorted things that may or not make it into the story. Even if you don't put it in, a reader knows if you fudged or not.

Date this chart was completed:

Character's Full Name:

Reason or meaning of name:

Nickname:

Reason:

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:

Age: How old does s/he appear?

Eye Color:

Glasses or contacts:

Weight:

Height:

Type of body/build:

Skin tone:

Skin type:

Shape of face:

Distinguishing Marks:

Predominant feature:

Looks like:

Is s/he healthy?

If not, why not:

FAVORITES:

Character's favorite color:

Music:

Food:

Literature:

Expressions:

Expletives:

HABITS:

Smokes: What?

When and how much?

Drinks: What?

When and how much?

Hobbies:

BACKGROUND:

Hometown:

Type of childhood:

First memory:

Most important childhood event that still affects him/her:

Why?

Education:

Religion:

Finances:

FAMILY:

Mother:

Relationship with her:

Father:

Relationship with him:

Siblings:

How many?

Birth order:

Relationship with each:

Children of siblings:

ATTITUDE:

Most at ease when:

Ill at ease when:

Priorities:

Philosophy:

How s/he feels about self:

Past failure s/he would be embarrassed to have people know about:

Why?

If granted one wish, what would it be?

Why?

PERSONALITY:

Greatest source of strength in character's personality (whether s/he sees it as such or not):

Greatest source of weakness in character's personality (whether s/he sees it as such or not):

Character's soft spot:

Is this soft spot obvious to others?

If not, how does character hide it?

Biggest vulnerability:

TRAITS:

Optimist or pessimist:

Why?

Introvert or extrovert:

Why?

Drives and motivations:

Talents:

Extremely unskilled at:

Good characteristics:

Character flaws:

Mannerisms:

Peculiarities:

Biggest regret:

Minor regrets:

Biggest accomplishment:

Minor accomplishments:

Character's darkest secret:

Does anyone else know?

If yes, did character tell them?

If no, how did they find out?

SELF-PERCEPTION:

One word CHARACTER would use to describe self:

One paragraph description of how CHARACTER would describe self:

What does CHARACTER consider best physical characteristic?

What does CHARACTER consider worst physical characteristic?

Are these realistic assessments?

If not, why not?

How CHARACTER thinks others perceive him/her:

What four things would CHARACTER most like to change about self? (#1 most important, #2 second most important, etc.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Why?

If change #1 was made, would character be as happy as s/he thinks?

If not, why not?

INTERRELATION WITH OTHERS:

How does character relate to others?

How is s/he perceived by...

Strangers?

Friends?

Wife/Husband/Lover?

Hero/Heroine?

How does character view hero/heroine?

First impression: Why?

What happens to change this perception?

What do family/friends like most about character?

What do family/friends like least about character?

GOALS:

Immediate goals:

Long range goals:

How does character plan to accomplish these goals?

How will other characters be affected?

PROBLEMS/CRISIS:

How character reacts in a crisis:

How character faces problems:

Kinds of problems character usually runs into:

How character reacts to NEW problems:

How character reacts to change:

GENERAL:

Favorite clothing: Why?

Least favorite clothing: Why?

Jewelry:

Other accessories:

Drives:

Where does character live?

Where does character want to live?

Spending habits (frugal, spendthrift, etc): Why?

What does s/he do too much of?

Too little of?

Most prized possession: Why?

UNCATAGORIZED:

Person character secretly admires:

Why?

Person character was most influenced by:

Why?

Most important person in character's life before story starts:

Why?

How does character spend the week before the story starts?