

FICTION WRITER'S CHARACTER CHART

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CHARACTER'S FULL NAME AND REASON OR MEANING OF NAME				STORY, NOVEL OR SERIES IN WHICH THIS CHARACTER LIVES			
NICKNAME(S) OR ALIAS(ES)				REASON(S) FOR NICKNAME(S) OR ALIAS(ES)			
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 (F) AND LEAST FAVORITES (LF)							
F COLOR		LF COLOR, AND WHY		F MUSIC		LF MUSIC, AND WHY	
F FOOD		F LITERATURE		F EXPRESSIONS			
EXPLETIVES				MODE OF TRANSPORTATION		DAREDEVIL OR CAUTIOUS?	SAME WHEN ALONE?
HABITS							
SMOKES? WHAT?		WHEN AND HOW MUCH?		DRINKS? WHAT?		WHEN AND HOW MUCH?	
HOBBIES				HOW DOES S/HE SPEND A RAINY DAY?			
BACKGROUND							
HOMETOWN		TYPE OF CHILDHOOD		FIRST MEMORY			
MOST IMPORTANT CHILDHOOD EVENT THAT STILL AFFECTS HIM/HER AND WHY?							

BACKGROUND (continued)

EDUCATION	RELIGION	FINANCES
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FAMILY

MOTHER	RELATIONSHIP WITH HER	FATHER	RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM
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	NAME	AGE	CHARACTER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM/HER	CHILDREN OF SIBLING
SIBLINGS BY BIRTH ORDER				

EXTENDED FAMILY?	CLOSE?	WHY OR WHY NOT?
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ATTITUDE

MOST AT EASE WHEN ...	ILL AT EASE WHEN ...
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PRIORITIES	PHILOSOPHY
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HOW S/HE FEELS ABOUT SELF	PAST FAILURE S/HE WOULD BE EMBARRASSED TO HAVE PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT, AND WHY
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IF S/HE WAS GRANTED ONE WISH, WHAT WOULD IT BE, AND WHY?
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PERSONALITY

GREATEST SOURCE OF STRENGTH IN HIS/HER PERSONALITY*	GREATEST SOURCE OF WEAKNESS IN HIS/HER PERSONALITY*
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CHARACTER'S SOFT SPOT	IS IT OBVIOUS TO OTHERS?	IF NOT, HOW DOES S/HE HIDE IT?
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BIGGEST VULNERABILITY

* whether or not s/he sees it as such

TRAITS

OPTIMIST OR PESSIMIST, AND WHY	INTROVERT OR EXTROVERT, AND WHY
DRIVES AND MOTIVATIONS	TALENTS
EXTREMELY SKILLED AT	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 NOT, HOW DID THEY FIND OUT?

SELF-PERCEPTION

ONE WORD CHARACTER WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE SELF	ONE PARAGRAPH DESCRIPTION OF HOW S/HE WOULD DESCRIBE SELF
WHAT DOES S/HE CONSIDER BEST PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTIC?	WHAT DOES S/HE CONSIDER WORST PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTIC?
ARE THESE REALISTIC ASSESSMENTS?	IF NOT, WHY NOT?
HOW S/HE THINKS OTHERS PERCEIVE HIM/HER	

SELF-PERCEPTION (continued)

WHAT FOUR THINGS WOULD CHARACTER MOST LIKE TO CHANGE ABOUT SELF (in order, most to least important), AND WHY?

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

IF #1 (above) CHANGED, WOULD CHARACTER BE AS HAPPY AS S/HE THINKS?

IF NOT, WHY NOT?

INTERRELATION WITH OTHERS

HOW DOES S/HE RELATE TO OTHERS?

HOW IS S/HE PERCEIVED BY ...

STRANGERS?

FRIENDS?

WIFE/HUSBAND/LOVER?

HERO/HEROINE?

HOW DOES CHARACTER VIEW HERO/HEROINE?

READERS' FIRST IMPRESSION OF CHARACTER

ALSO?

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 S/HE PLAN TO ACCOMPLISH THESE GOALS?

HOW WILL OTHER CHARACTERS BE AFFECTED?

PROBLEMS / CRISIS

HOW DOES CHARACTER REACT IN A CRISIS?

HOW DOES S/HE FACE PROBLEMS?

KINDS OF PROBLEMS S/HE USUALLY RUNS INTO

HOW DOES S/HE REACT TO **NEW** PROBLEMS?

HOW DOES S/HE REACT TO CHANGE?

GENERAL

FAVORITE CLOTHING, AND WHY

LEAST FAVORITE CLOTHING, AND WHY

JEWELRY

OTHER ACCESSORIES

WHERE DOES CHARACTER LIVE?

WHERE DOES S/HE WANT TO LIVE?

SPENDING HABITS (frugal, spendthrift, etc.), AND WHY

WHAT DOES S/HE DO TOO MUCH OF?

WHAT DOES S/HE DO TOO LITTLE OF?

MOST PRIZED POSSESSION, AND WHY

PERSON ~~S/HE~~ WAS MOST INFLUENCED BY, AND WHY

MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN HIS/HER LIFE BEFORE STORY STARTS, AND WHY

HOW DOES S/HE SPEND THE WEEK BEFORE THE STORY STARTS?