

Character Development Worksheet
Courtesy of PamelaDowd.com

Use this worksheet to assist you in the development of your fiction characters!

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Current Date:

Novel Title:

Takes place in what Locale/Time:

Character Name:

Character Age:

Character Race:

Character Sex:

Why is this character worth writing about?:

How this character grows (the take away):

Main Character? Y / N

Most Important Thing To Know About The Character:

A One Line Description:

Present Problem or Crisis:

Minor Character? Y / N

Relationship to Major Character?

If Not a Major Character, How Does He/She Advance the Plot?:

Attend church? Y / N Which one?

If not, why not?

Basic belief:

What kind of car does MC drive?

Is it paid for? Y / N

What kind of sports does MC like?

What taste in music, art, books, TV?

Political party:

Hobbies:

Favorite foods/drinks:

Favorite Clothes:

Taste in Jewlery:

Favorite Colors:

Description of Home/Apartment (physical, mental, and emotional atmosphere):

Describe Furnishings (use colors & materials):

FAMILY DATA:

Married? Y / N

To whom:

How MC feels about marriage:

Divorced? Y / N

From whom:

In love? Y / N

With whom:

If not, why not?

Children? Y / N

Names and ages:

Name and significant contribution to current situation:

Background

Birthplace:

Class in Society now: Lower / Middle / Upper -- City / Country

Class growing up: Lower / Middle / Upper -- City / Country

Interesting Information Regarding Family:

Any significant happenings during childhood which affected way of thinking,
personality, etc.:

Happy or dysfunctional home life?

Parents' occupations:

Divorced parents? Y / N When?

Death of family member? Y / N Who?

Relocation of family? Y / N From? To?

College? Y / N Where? Date Graduated?

Significant events related to college?

Influenced in life by any particular person or event?

The best thing that ever happened to the MC?

The worst thing that ever happened to the MC?

CHARACTER

Best character trait?

Outstanding Qualities:

Worst character trait/ flaw?

What kind of person do *other* people think character is?

What is MC's opinion of self?

Sense of humor/ what kind?

Ambitions:

Philosophy of life:

What does MC admire in women/men?:

How does MC handle stress and problems?

Is MC capable of lying Y / N, cheating Y / N, stealing Y / N

Why?

How does character react in extreme circumstances?:

How does character see his/her own faults?:

Why is MC different from other characters?

Why do I like/dislike this character?

Why will this MC be remembered?

Habitual Expressions:

Habitual Mannerisms:

Fears:

Frustrations:

Temperament style:

Emotions:

Leader? Y / N

Follower? Y / N

Dropout? Y / N

Best friend?

Characteristics of friend:

Friends significant contributions to current situation:

Enemies and Why:

Characteristics of enemy:

Enemies significant contributions to current situation:

Physical Appearance

Height:

Weight:

Type of Body:

Appearance:

Any Birthmarks or scars?

Posture:

Unique Mannerisms, gestures, expressions, sound of voice:

Scars or Handicaps (physical, mental, emotional)

Complexion:

Hair Color:

Eye Color:

Jawline:

Lips:

Mouth:

Eyebrows:

Face:

Ears:

Nose:

Neck:

Teeth:

Hands:

Fingers:

Shoulders:

Hips:

Waist:

Occupation/Profession

Profession:

Quality Of Work Performed:

Reputation:

Hours Worked:

Income/Financial Status:

Feelings About Wealth or Lack of it:

Office Workers That Influence Character/Comes In Contact With:

Grades (school):

Favorite Subjects:

Poorest Subjects:

Military Service

Branch:

Highest Rank Achieved:

Service Date:

Served Under What Ruler:

Campaigns:

Decorations If Applicable:

Official Opinion of Protagonist as Soldier:

* Character Description List compiled using: Character Charts by Bonnie Hamre, Three-Dimensional Character Chart by Pat Kubis and Bob Howland, and Getting to Know You by Linda George (Writers' Journal, Sept./Oct. 1996).