

# Get To Know Your Character

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Whether in fiction or narrative non-fiction, complex and nuanced characters make your story more interesting. A character worksheet can help you figure out your characters' personalities, histories, and perceptions. It can help you better understand their drives and motivations.

Getting to know each character in depth can help you present them as a distinct individual.

This worksheet provides questions to help you define a character's history, and to picture their mannerisms and the way they communicate. It delves into the way that they think and perceive themselves, and how they would handle certain sticky situations. It also gives you space to reflect upon how your narrator perceives them.

At the end of the worksheet, there is space to include a timeline of events that can help you map out your character's story arc.

## Character Questionnaire

	Your Character's Perception	Your Narrator's Perception
What is your character's full name?		
What is their nickname?		
How did they get this nickname?		

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	Your Character's Perception	Your Narrator's Perception
What is their age at the beginning of the story?		
<b>Physical Characteristics</b>		
What are their distinguishing physical characteristics?		
How have they altered their appearance?		
Is their appearance considered pleasing to others? Why or why not?		
What is their preferred outfit or style? Does this affect their movement in any way?		

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	Your Character's Perception	Your Narrator's Perception
What is their posture when at rest?		
<b>Voice, Mannerisms &amp; Expressions</b>		
What does their voice sound like?		
Do they speak in a dialect or with an accent?		
Are there any idiomatic expressions they use often?		
What curse words do they tend to use?		

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	Your Character's Perception	Your Narrator's Perception
What curse word(s) would they never use?		
What filler words do they use?		
What does their laugh sound like?		
What are their mannerisms when they are nervous?		
What are their mannerisms when they are angry?		

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	Your Character's Perception	Your Narrator's Perception
What are their mannerisms when they are tired?		
What are their mannerisms when they are amused?		
What are their mannerisms when they are scared?		
What are their mannerisms when they are impatient?		
What are their mannerisms when they are worried?		

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	Your Character's Perception	Your Narrator's Perception
Perception & Identity		
How do they feel about themselves?		
How would they describe themselves in one word?		
What do they consider their best personality trait?		
What do they consider their worst personality trait?		
What do they consider their best physical characteristic?		

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	Your Character's Perception	Your Narrator's Perception
What do they consider their worst physical characteristic?		
How do they think others perceive them?		
What would they most like to change about themselves?		
Character Traits		
What do they find funny?		
What makes them scared?		

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	Your Character's Perception	Your Narrator's Perception
What makes them happy?		
What makes them uncomfortable?		
What makes them content?		
What makes them sad?		
What makes them angry?		

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	Your Character's Perception	Your Narrator's Perception
Are they generally optimistic or pessimistic?		
When do they like to be alone?		
When do they prefer to be in the company of others?		
Do they approach situations more logically or emotionally?		
Do they tend to think carefully before speaking, or say something as soon as it comes to mind?		

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	Your Character's Perception	Your Narrator's Perception
What is their religious philosophy?		
What has contributed to their religious philosophy?		
What would they change about themselves if they could?		
<b>Childhood</b>		
What kind of town did they grow up in?		
What kind of household did they grow up in?		

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	Your Character's Perception	Your Narrator's Perception
What is their clearest childhood memory?		
What did they want to be when they grew up?		
How did they perform in school?		
What did they do in their free time as a child?		
What did they do in their free time as a teen?		

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	Your Character's Perception	Your Narrator's Perception
What were they most proud of as a child?		
What were they most proud of as a teen?		
<b>Looking Back</b>		
What has been the worst day of their life so far?		
What has been the best day of their life so far?		
What is the worst pain they have experienced?		

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	Your Character's Perception	Your Narrator's Perception
What is their biggest regret?		
What is their darkest secret?		
Present		
What kind of town do they live in?		
Do they live alone or with others?		
Do they have pets? If so, what kind?		

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What do they do in their spare time?		
What is their occupation?		
Do they enjoy their occupation?		
What is their financial situation?		
What has brought them to this financial situation?		

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What single event would throw their life into complete turmoil?		
What is their greatest skill?		
What do they want to change in their life?		
What are they doing to make these changes?		
What do they feel guilty about?		

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What accomplishment are they most proud of?		
<b>Others in Their Life</b>		
Whom do they feel closest to?		
Why do they feel close to this person?		
What is their relationship(s) with their parents?		
What is their relationship(s) with their siblings (if any)?		

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What is their relationship with their significant other (if any)?		
What is their relationship(s) with their children (if any)?		
Who is the person they dislike the most?		
Who makes them uncomfortable?		
Whom do they turn to in times of trouble?		

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	Your Character's Perception	Your Narrator's Perception
Whom do they admire most?		
<b>Genre-Specific Traits</b>	Add questions specific to your genre here—such as supernatural elements specific to your world and the effect they have on your character, or physical endurance in a story that has action.	

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<b>Sticky Situations</b>		
Your character is tied to a chair, blindfolded, and left alone in an empty room. What do they do?		
Your character is walking with a friend. They overhear a group of people make inappropriate comments about that friend. What does your character do?		

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Your character is arrested for something they didn't do. Whom do they call?		
Your character is wins 3 million dollars in the lottery. What do they do with the money?		
Your character committed a crime and has been caught. They are offered a deal where they can give evidence against a friend to go free. What do they do?		
Your character finds themselves sitting next to a celebrity they idolize at a bar. What do they do?		

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Your character is given the wrong food by waitstaff at a restaurant. How do they react?		
Your character walks in on their significant other in bed with another person. What do they do?		
Your character comes home to find that they have been robbed. What are they most upset about losing? How do they react to the situation?		
Their Story		
What is your character's story up until the beginning of your book?		

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What happens to your character over the course of the story?		
What obstacle(s) do they encounter?		
How do they tackle these obstacles?		
Do they change throughout the course of your story? If so, how?		



