

Well-developed characters do more to drive a story than any other aspect of the writing, but many writers find that giving their characters depth is one of their biggest challenges. This worksheet should help you think more thoroughly about your characters, from what they look like to their background to what motivates them. Some prompts may be more important to your particular character than others, so of course you should spend more time on those, but try to respond to as many prompts as fully as possible. You should soon begin to see your wispy character gaining corporeal form.

ID	
Full name:	
	Who named character?
	Named after person/place/thing?
	Loves or hates name?
Nickname(s):	
	How acquired:
Alias(es) and/or former name(s):	
	When/in what circumstances does/did character use?
Identifying number(s):	
	Given by whom/what organization?
	Significance?

Physical Characteristics							
Species:		Sex/Gender identity:		Race/Ethnicity:			
Age:		Height:		Weight:		Build:	
Skin	color: texture: type:		Nose	size: shape:			
Hair/ Feathers/ Scales	color: texture: style:		Mouth	size: shape:			
Eyes	color: shape: size: type:		Dentition (teeth, tusks, grinding plates...)				
Hands, fingers, nails:			Feet, toes, nails, arches, heels:				
Voice:							
Senses—strong/weak sense of							
Smell:			Sight:				
Touch:			Taste:				
Hearing:			(Sixth sense):				
Illnesses:		Physical limitations:			Allergies:		
Scars/Injuries:		Tattoos/Piercings:			Stance/Gait:		
Mannerisms:							
Physical/Mental augmentations (adamantium skeleton? calculator-like brain?):							
Normal dress:		Formal dress:					
		When does character wear it?					
		Does character like or not like dressing up?					
Favorite footwear:				Jewelry:			

Personality & Preferences		
Temperament:		IQ/Intelligence level:
Failings/Weaknesses:		Level of ambition:
Fears/Phobias:		
Favorite color:	Favorite food:	Most hated food:
Alcohol/Drug use:		
Favorite music:		Most hated music:
Musical talents/skills:		
Usual mode(s) of transportation:		
Habitation:	Bed:	Bathroom:
Hobbies:	Toys:	Entertainment:

Background				
Birth date:		Zodiac sign:		
Prophecies about/Portents at birth:				
Place of birth:		Grew up:		Lives now:
Beliefs	Religious:		Ethical:	
Talents:		Skills:		Education/Training:
				Occupation:
Military Service	When?	Rank:	Specialization:	Saw combat?

Others in Character's Life				
Family				
Parents/Guardians			Siblings	
Mom (name, age, etc): Dad: Other(s): Relationship between/amongst parents? Relationship with character?			Number: Gender(s): Age(s): Birth order: Relationship with character:	
Single/Married/ In relationship:				
If married or in relationship	Define relationship: How did they meet? How long together? Is the relationship good/stable? Biggest issues between them?			
	Worst enemy:		Best friend:	
How did relationship come to pass?				
How do they relate when together?				
Pet(s)	Number:	Type:	How acquired:	Relationship:

Tell Us a Story

What does character hate about self?

What is character proud of?

What does character desire more than anything else?

Why?

What is standing in the way? (Another person, thing or him/herself?)

What is character's stupid party trick?

Describe a formative/traumatic/significant childhood event:

How did it affect character?

How would a stranger perceive character?

How do friends perceive character?

How does family perceive character?