



# How to Create a Character Profile

With a little help from [blog.reedsy.com](https://blog.reedsy.com)

## PART 1: THE OUTER LAYER

**Definition:** How your character looks, sounds, and moves.

**Similar to:** An offender profile.

### THE BASICS

Name: Mike Oxlung

Age: 30

Place of birth: Johannesburg

Current location: Johannesburg

Nationality: South-African

Education: BA Degree in abstract art and poetry

Occupation: marketing

Income: Middle class income

### PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Height: 5'7

Eye color: Green

Hair color: Brown

Build: Burly

Distinguishing features (tattoos, scars, birthmarks)?

Horizontal scarring on right arm.

Tattoo covered left arm and chest.



Stretch marks across back and upper legs.

  Preferred outfit?

Black pants and shirt with black leather boots.

  Glasses?

No

  Accessories (cane, pipe, necklace, etc.)?

An Excessive number of rings and leather arm-bands

Grooming:

Untidy but clean


Distinguishing “tics” and mannerisms:

Tends to get frustrated quickly

Argues with himself when engaged in problem solving situations.

  Health? Do they suffer from chronic illnesses?

No

 Handwriting (sloppy, neat, careful, unintelligible):

Choppy but neat.

  Gait:

Confident, powerful

## **SPEECH AND COMMUNICATION**

Style of speech (elevated, educated, peppered with slang, etc.)?

Speaks clear, uses slang and curses frequently.

Tempo of speech (rapid, slow, measured, drawl, etc.)?

Slow.

Do they have an accent?

No noticeable accent

Pitch (melodious, gravelly, deep, etc.)?  
Husky/dry.

Posture:

Stiff, military.

👐👐 Gesturing:

Only when agitated or eager.

👁️👁️ Level of eye contact (direct, shifty, etc.):

Direct eye contact.

Speech impediments:

Slight stutter.

Distinguishing speech “tics”:

None except for the stutter.

👉👉 Preferred curse word:

Fuck

🗣️ Catchphrases:

I love the smell of napalm in the morning.

🤔🤔 Laughter? What do they tend to find funny?

Cringe or fail videos along with dark humour.

Describe their smile?

Shy.

Emotive? Do they wear their emotions on their sleeve? How easily can others read them?

They prefer not making their emotions obvious.

They have a resting \_\_\_\_\_ face.

Confused 😐😐

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## PART 2: THE FLESH

**Definition:** How your character is a product of their environment.

**Similar to:** The character bio and backstory.

### ◀ THE PAST

🏠🏠 Hometown:

Randburg.

Type of childhood (sheltered, neglected, etc.)?

Happy, usual.

🎓🎓 Education:

Hated primary school, enjoyed the final two years of high school and loved varsity.

➔ Were they involved in organizations and clubs at school?

Boxing club.

Singing club.

➔ 🎓🎓 At graduation, they were named Most Likely To \_\_\_\_\_ in the yearbook.

Be a millionaire or be in prison in 10 years.

💼💼 Jobs (if applicable)? What would their résumé look like?

Stock manager at a paint shop.

Rugby coach for under 6's.

Bartender.

➔ Dream job as a child? Why?

Rallycross driver, had a Playstation 2 as a kid with one game, WRC 2005, which he played every day and thus wanted to be a rally racer.


Who were their role models growing up? Describe them:

Dad and Uncles, they were hard working and successful yet made enough time for their families and always looked happy, this inspired Richard to work hard in order to support his family one day.

Greatest regret:

Wish he never started smoking.

Wish he never stopped boxing.

 Hobbies growing up:


Playing videogames.

Archery.

Cycling.

  Favorite place to be as a child?

Home.

 If they could change one thing from their past, what would it be? Why?

They would be less self-conscious and shy because the older he got the more he realised that people who would bully and judge do so no matter what, thus he feels like he spent too much time and energy on avoiding attention and being “cool” that it made most of his childhood an unhappy memory.

Major turning points or “life beats” in childhood:

When Richard started doing sports and getting into shape he gained a lot of confidence and started discovering himself.

At the end of high school Richard didn't know what he wanted to be anymore and thus started doing the course that seemed most appealing to him and got his degree, this era taught him how to stay focused and disciplined even though he doesn't feel motivated.

➔ Earliest memory:

Napping with the family dog in the yard.

➔ Saddest memory:

Every memory of his childhood friend who passed away in primary school.

➔ Happiest memory:

Getting his Playstation 2.

➔ Clearest memory:

Swimming with his parents on a summer afternoon after getting back from school.

💀💀 What are their skeletons in the closet?

No one knows.

Three adjectives to describe them as a child?

Wild.


Loud.

Reckless.

What advice would they give to their younger self?

Stop caring about what other people think and just have fun every day. You don't have to know what you want to be one day, just focus on school, do well and then you can get a degree in something you like at the time and see where it goes.

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 Criminal record:

None.

## FAMILY

 Father:

Age (if living): 74

Occupation: vet

Briefly describe their relationship with your character:

Open and loving.

 Mother:

Age (if living): 68


Occupation: therapist

Briefly describe their relationship with your character:

Don't talk anymore.


 Siblings:

None

 Children (if applicable):

How many?

None

 Extended family:

Grandparents:

grandmother and grandfather

Uncles and aunts:

3 of each

Cousins:

8 cousins

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

 Family's economic status: middle class

How often do they see their family in a year? Five or six times


## EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

 Closest friends? Describe them:

One best friend who he considers his brother. Dark hair, taller than character, outgoing and hard working.

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 Other significant friends:

A girlfriend of 3 years.

 Enemies? Describe them:

Steven. He is an arrogant, old man who Mike bumps into every now and then. Everytime they meet Steven just makes it his mission to piss Mike off.

How are they perceived by...

➔ ...strangers in the street?

Intimidating

➔ ...acquaintances at a work function?

Comforting

➔ ...colleagues in the office?

Hardworking.

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➔ ...authority figures?

Honest

➔ ...friends in their friend circles?

Comforting and reliable

➔ ...children?

scary

➔ ...the opposite sex?

Meh.

➔ ...extended family?

Fun.

 What social media platforms are they on?


☐ Twitter ☐ Facebook

☐ Reddit ☐ Instagram

☐ Snapchat

All of the above




 How would they use their social media platforms?


To look at entertaining media.

 How would they fill out an online dating profile for themselves?

Half-assed.

 What's their role in a group dynamic?

Parent.

 How quickly do they respond to emails?

As soon as they see it.

Who do they depend on for...

→ ...practical advice?  
Best friend

→ ...mentoring?  
Father

→ ...a wingman?  
Best friend

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➔ ...emotional support?

Girlfriend

➔ ...moral support?  
Best friend

What do they want from a relationship?  
He doesn't know

💡💡 Who would be their ideal partner?  
Alexandria Didario

💡💡 Do they have a significant other? Describe them:  
Yes, she is short, has brown hair with green eyes and she is very feisty.

How many people would attend their funeral?  
No more than 10

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## PART 3: THE CORE

**Definition:** How your character is deep down.

**Similar to:** A psych test.

### 💡💡 PSYCHOLOGY


☁☁ What do they do on rainy days?  
Go out drinking

Are they:


☐ Street-smart


☐ Pessimist


☐ Extrovert

 What is their favorite sound?

Music.

 Favorite place in the world?  
The woods.


 What secrets do they keep? What are they most afraid of people finding out?  
Who he was in his past.

 What do they want the most?  
Money.


Biggest flaw:  
Occasional self-loathing.


Biggest strength:  
Very empathetic and wise in most aspects.

Biggest fear:  
Watching people he loves die.

 What is their biggest accomplishment?  
Buying his house.

What is their idea of perfect happiness?  
Not worrying about money or bad people.

 Do they want to be remembered? What for?  
No, they don't care.

 Favorite quote:  
Never regret what made you smile.

How do they approach...

➔ ...power?  
Cautiously.

➔ ...ambition?  
Eagerly.

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→ ...love?  
Hastily.

→ ...change?  
Open heartedly.

👂👂 What is the one object or possession that they would rescue from their burning home?

Their favourite book.


🔊🔊 What (or who) bores them?  
Everything if it drags on too long.

💢💢 What makes them angry?  
Too many things.

What do they look for in a person?  
compatibility

How strong is their moral compass? When, specifically, are they willing to compromise their morals?

Morals are something that Mike rarely breaks.

 List the last 10 books that they read:

To kill a mockingbird.  
Dante's inferno.  
The communist manifesto.  
Poems from the first world war.  
The lord of the rings.  
The philosophy of self.  
Electronics for dummies.  
Everything is fucked.  
The hunger games.  
Shakespeare's complete works.

Which fictional world would they most wish to visit?

Lord of the rings' world.

If they didn't have to sleep, what would they do with the extra time?

Paint.

 What are their pet peeves?


People with arrogance.

 If they won the lottery, what would they do?

Buy motorcycles.

Describe the character's bucket list at the ages of:


15: everything to do with cars.  
20: everything to do with bikes  
30: they want to see the world  
40: they want to immigrate overseas

 List the 10 songs that would occupy their All-Time Most Played playlist on Spotify:

Mudvayne – dig  
Slipknot – before I forget  
Nirvana – heart-shaped box  
Nirvana – smells like teen spirit  
Breaking Benjamin – cold  
Papa roach – between angels and insects  
Destroy boys – American river  
Title fight – 27  
Egypt central – you make me sick  
Trust company – falling apart

What is the best compliment that someone ever paid them?

“It's really easy to talk to you”

 In an elevator, do they push the elevator button more than once?

☐ Yes

What would they want their tombstone to say?  
If you're reading this I'm probably dead.

## **THE PRESENT AND FUTURE**

Story goal:

Becoming at peace with the world and how meaningful life really is; yet being contempt with this and being happy anyways. Finding joy and love in little things.

Story motivation:

Mike is starting to get exhausted of being unhappy all the time, he does not want to let stubbing his toe turn him murderous anymore. Mike feels like expressing his experience online will help him come to terms with what is making him so unhappy.