



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current location: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_  
Education: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Income: \_\_\_\_\_

### PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Height: \_\_\_\_\_  
Eye color: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hair color: \_\_\_\_\_  
Build: \_\_\_\_\_

Distinguishing features (tattoos, scars, birthmarks)?

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 Preferred outfit?


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 Glasses?

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

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Grooming:

- ☐ Disheveled                      ☐ Smart, very put together  
☐ Untidy but clean  
☐ Other? If so, explain:

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Distinguishing “tics” and mannerisms:

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 Health? Do they suffer from chronic illnesses?

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 Handwriting (sloppy, neat, careful, unintelligible):

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 Gait:

- ☐ Confident, powerful strides                      ☐ Lazy stroll  
☐ Fast, walks at a clip                                      ☐ Distracted, eyes on the ground  
☐ Other? If so, explain:

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## SPEECH AND COMMUNICATION

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

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

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Do they have an accent?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Pitch (melodious, gravelly, deep, etc.)?

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Posture:

- ☐ Stiff, military
- ☐ Slouching
- ☐ Casual and relaxed
- ☐ 'Turtle,' tired
- ☐ Other? If so, explain:

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 Gesturing:

- ☐ Only when agitated or eager
- ☐ Doesn't gesture
- ☐ Compulsive "hand-talker"
- ☐ Controlled, only to make a point
- ☐ Other? If so, explain:

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

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Speech impediments:

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Distinguishing speech "tics":

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 Preferred curse word:

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 Catchphrases:

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 Laughter? What do they tend to find funny?

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Describe their smile?

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

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

- ☐ Bitch 😏
- ☐ Angel 😊
- ☐ Neutral 😐
- ☐ Confused 😕
- ☐ Other? If so, explain:

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

 Education: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

➔ Were they involved in organizations and clubs at school?

☐ Sports 

☐ Debate 


☐ Gay / Straight Alliance 

☐ Model UN 


☐ Drama 

☐ Other? If so, explain:  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

➔ Dream job as a child? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_


 Who were their role models growing up? Describe them:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Greatest regret:

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 Hobbies growing up:


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 Favorite place to be as a child?

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

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Major turning points or “life beats” in childhood:

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➔ Earliest memory:

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➔ Saddest memory:

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➔ Happiest memory:

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➔ Clearest memory:

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 What are their skeletons in the closet?

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Three adjectives to describe them as a child?

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What advice would they give to their younger self?

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 Criminal record:

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## FAMILY

 Father:

Age (if living): \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe their relationship with your character:

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 Mother:

Age (if living): \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_


Briefly describe their relationship with your character:

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 Siblings:

How many? \_\_\_\_\_

What are their names? Ages? \_\_\_\_\_


Briefly describe their relationship(s) with your character:

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 Children (if applicable):

How many? \_\_\_\_\_

What are their names? Ages? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe their relationship(s) with your character:

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 Extended family:

Grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

Uncles and aunts: \_\_\_\_\_


Cousins: \_\_\_\_\_

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

 Family's economic status: \_\_\_\_\_

How often do they see their family in a year? \_\_\_\_\_

## EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

 Closest friends? Describe them:

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 Other significant friends:

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 Enemies? Describe them:

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How are they perceived by...

➔ ...strangers in the street?

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➔ ...acquaintances at a work function?

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➔ ...colleagues in the office?

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➔ ...authority figures?

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➔ ...friends in their friend circles?

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➔ ...children?

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➔ ...the opposite sex?

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➔ ...extended family?

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 What social media platforms are they on?


- ☐ Twitter      ☐ Facebook  
☐ Reddit      ☐ Instagram  
☐ Snapchat      ☐ Tumblr  
☐ Other? If so, explain:

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 How would they use their social media platforms?


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


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 What's their role in a group dynamic?

- ☐ Leader      ☐ Joker  
☐ Parent      ☐ Hype man  
☐ Mooch      ☐ Other? If so, explain:

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 How quickly do they respond to emails?

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Who do they depend on for...

➔ ...practical advice?

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➔ ...mentoring?

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➔ ...a wingman?

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➔ ...emotional support?

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➔ ...moral support?

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What do they want from a relationship?

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💞 Who would be their ideal partner?

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💞 Do they have a significant other? Describe them:

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How many people would attend their funeral?

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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?


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Are they:

- |                                       |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Street-smart | <input type="checkbox"/> Book-smart |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Optimist     | <input type="checkbox"/> Pessimist  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introvert    | <input type="checkbox"/> Extrovert  |

 What is their favorite sound?


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 Favorite place in the world?

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 What secrets do they keep? What are they most afraid of people finding out?

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 What do they want the most?

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Biggest flaw:

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Biggest strength:

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Biggest fear:

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 What is their biggest accomplishment?

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What is their idea of perfect happiness?

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 Do they want to be remembered? What for?

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 Favorite quote:

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How do they approach...

➔ ...power?

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➔ ...ambition?

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➔ ...love?

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➔ ...change?

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

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 What (or who) bores them?

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 What makes them angry?

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What do they look for in a person?

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

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 List the last 10 books that they read:

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Which fictional world would they most wish to visit?


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

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 What are their pet peeves?

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 If they won the lottery, what would they do?

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

15: 

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20: 

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30: 

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40: 

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


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What is the best compliment that someone ever paid them?

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

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

What would they want their tombstone to say? 

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## THE PRESENT AND FUTURE

Story goal:

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Story motivation:

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