



How to Create a Character Profile

With a little help from 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)?

 Preferred outfit?

 Glasses?

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

Grooming:

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

Distinguishing “tics” and mannerisms:

 Health? Do they suffer from chronic illnesses?

 Handwriting (sloppy, neat, careful, unintelligible):

 Gait:

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

SPEECH AND COMMUNICATION

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

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

Do they have an accent?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

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

Posture:

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

 Gesturing:

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


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

Speech impediments:

Distinguishing speech "tics":

 Preferred curse word:

 Catchphrases:

 Laughter? What do they tend to find funny?

Describe their smile?

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

They have a resting _____ face.


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

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:

 Hobbies growing up:

 Favorite place to be as a child?

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

Major turning points or “life beats” in childhood:

➔ Earliest memory:

➔ Saddest memory:


➔ Happiest memory:

➔ Clearest memory:

 What are their skeletons in the closet?

Three adjectives to describe them as a child?

What advice would they give to their younger self?

 Criminal record:

FAMILY

 Father:


Age (if living): _____ Occupation: _____

Briefly describe their relationship with your character:

 Mother:

Age (if living): _____ Occupation: _____


Briefly describe their relationship with your character:

 Siblings:

How many? _____

What are their names? Ages? _____

Briefly describe their relationship(s) with your character:

 Children (if applicable):

How many? _____

What are their names? Ages? _____

Briefly describe their relationship(s) with your character:

 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:

 Other significant friends:

 Enemies? Describe them:

How are they perceived by...

➔ ...strangers in the street?

➔ ...acquaintances at a work function?

➔ ...colleagues in the office?


➔ ...authority figures?

➔ ...friends in their friend circles?


➔ ...children?


➔ ...the opposite sex?


➔ ...extended family?

 What social media platforms are they on?


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

 How would they use their social media platforms?

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

 What's their role in a group dynamic?

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

 How quickly do they respond to emails?

Who do they depend on for...

➔ ...practical advice?

➔ ...mentoring?

➔ ...a wingman?

➔ ...emotional support?

➔ ...moral support?

What do they want from a relationship?

💞 Who would be their ideal partner?

💞 Do they have a significant other? Describe them:

How many people would attend their funeral?

PART 3: THE CORE

Definition: How your character is deep down.


Similar to: A psych test.

💡 PSYCHOLOGY


☁ What do they do on rainy days?


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?

 Favorite place in the world?

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

 What do they want the most?


Biggest flaw:

Biggest strength:

Biggest fear:

 What is their biggest accomplishment?

What is their idea of perfect happiness?

 Do they want to be remembered? What for?

 Favorite quote:


How do they approach...


➔ ...power?

➔ ...ambition?

➔ ...love?

➔ ...change?


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

 What (or who) bores them?

 What makes them angry?


What do they look for in a person?


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

 List the last 10 books that they read:

Which fictional world would they most wish to visit?

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

 What are their pet peeves?

 If they won the lottery, what would they do?

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

15:


20:

30:

40:

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

What is the best compliment that someone ever paid them?

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

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

What would they want their tombstone to say?

THE PRESENT AND FUTURE

Story goal:

Story motivation:
