**Qualities of a good tester.**

What are the qualities that can make us different among all testers ?

Okay lets see .What do we do when a get any new project for testing!

We start thinking of the different testing techniques and strategies that can be applied to test the product starting from requirement gathering to test coverage and risk analysis. These testing techniques and strategies can be different from project to project depending on the need or time constraint and capability of the people involved in the project.

I believe a tester plays multiple roles in a project. They are responsible for the overall quality of the project along with keeping a balance with the changing client expectations to keeping a track on the tested project deliverables. people may call them a torch bearer ,or a gate keeper , or an investigator or a quality controller.  
To play these various kind of role and with utmost dedication is a bit difficult isn’t it !

Keeping ourselves updated with the latest trends in testing and learning a new tool is as important as acquiring and sharpening few skills which are necessary to be a good tester.  
I can think of these few qualities which can help a tester to get through all the expectations and to play their part a bit smoothly in the amazing journey as a tester.

1.A creative thinker.  
2.A good storyteller.  
3.A good communicator  
4.A detective.  
5.A good decision maker.  
8.A keen learner.

**1.A creative thinker.:**  
  
A creative persons is the one who can think and imagine a thousand ways to solve a problem and also can predict ten thousand ways that can go wrong in the process of solving a problem.

For example you have started testing a product with the defined approach and in that process you may or may not see any problems . But what if you apply the reverse thinking you start to think from point what not to do while testing the product .

Yes you are right !! we call it **Risk analysis.** If we know what not to do before starting isn’t it going to save us a bunch of time energy that we might have spent on trying to figure it out at the end .  
Most of the times we forget to do that because we are so used to follow the customized approach defined for everyone .

Also Once you understand and get used to the application it’s a bit difficult to go beyond the range and imagine it from other’s point of view .That’s where exploratory testing comes into picture .  
Exploratory testing can be one of the best ways to bring that creative mind of yours on the table .You start thinking and imagining the application from a hundreds of users perspective .And you might end up finding 100 defects right !

**2.A good storyteller.**

Have you heard any stories which has moved you ? or any story line of the movie which hooked you to you seat till the last moment.

That’s the magic of a good story and good story telling you can hook people to the context if you have enough information to keep their attention.

Every test we do has a story of its own. Just like you have some backroads about the characters in a story you gather pre requisite and just like the characters have ups and downs in the story and how you overcomes them .You might have some hurdles in your testing like you don’t have the right test data or environment at the beginning but you managed to finish the story of the test by gathering the test data and giving it a happy ending.

When we are supposed to present the testing effort in the form of data infront of the whole team. It is possible everyone in the team is not aware about the data you are showing so you need to present it in such way that your data is telling the story of your project . Yes we call it a **test plan**  .

A good test plan can have huge impact and can represent you and your testing team in a better way .For example the components you include in you test plan starting from the environment and system configuration till the different testing techniques and test data being used with the number of defects these all combined can present the story of your project and indeed can make you the hero/heroin of it .

**3.A good communicator .**

We all know a person having an excellent communication and interpersonal skill does have more opportunity for learning and growing with the experiences .The way of your communication or expression tells a lot about a person’s though process and feelings towards the other person .

A tester in a team is most likely to be the one disliked by the developer . Who likes being judged and being pointed out for their mistakes right ?

Its is not always true though that a tester and a developer cant be friends . If you understand , discuss the issues with keeping open mind and showing respect to each other’s work . It definitely wont be difficult to understand each other. for example while raise a bug or reporting it to the higher authority a tester and developer can have a discussion within them to filter out any un necessary thoughts and it will also save us from useless arguments .

Showing a supportive gesture or action to each other can resolve a lot of conflicts . because end of the day it is not about who is right or who is wrong . It is about how do we solve the problem together !  
In agile we have many ceremonies like **story planning** and **story churning** or **scrum** where both parties can sit and discuss these issues prior it becomes a big deal at the end .

**4.A Detective**

A good detective has always has this constant urge to know more about the thighs around him/her ?i am sure you all must have heard about . We tester play the role of detective in software development cycle . We should always be curios about why the system is working ? or why the system is not working ? There is always a reason for every action and we need to find and question it .

In a way we need to get that inner child of our to get in front and start asking whatever question comes to mind . It can be silly or not but its always important to ask questions and get the answers whenever something goes wrong and also whenever everything is fine .

Even when you found the answers , you question it was it the correct answer or can I get a more accurate answer to my question or should I go for a more reliable resource for this ?

Yes We call it **RCA** inour language **.** What was the reason this bug was missed we start brainstorming about was my information’s were not enough or was the process I followed was not right ? We testers should never work on assumptions we always should have a full proof plan form start to end . We might have thought ten ways to get our work done and we choose the best from those .

**5. A good decision maker.**

One can only have a good decision making skill when he/she know every about the project , the stake holders involved , what are the aspects need to be covered and what’s the timeline for it Having a calm attitude help making good decisions .

There will be a lot of times when things are not goings as you have planned that the place for you to improvise and take a quick decision what all are the less priority tasks can be excluded form your activity .Which will also not have a major impact on your end goal

For example you have planned your testing effort for fifteen days but now your manager comes and says you have to deliver it in ten days as the client wants . That may is not be a good a time to argue or ask questions on why the change of plan happened . You always should have a plan B prepared so that you are aware these are the tests that can be ignored or you must have a automation suit ready which is going to be your life savor and can help you spare some time to have a look at more important test cases. For testers the decision making skill is a must have as we have the upper hand when it comes to quality control of a project .

**8.A keen learner.**

**The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill : the willingness to learn is a choice : Brian Herbert**

Learning something new in life never goes in vein . Learning is a continuous process of improving yourself . Learning a new tool or technology brings up new opportunities and opens up a different point of view of looking at things you are doing .

It will boost your self confidence and will multiply you personal and professional development . It allows you to have a deeper and different understanding on the things that you might have been doing so long but have never thought from different perspective.

For testers, we might not be able to understand the language or the syntax of the code written but we definitely can understand the logic behind it and which ultimately helps us in testing because as testers we are supposed to go beyond the UI horizon deep in to the code to understand why its written like that and is it the expected logic .

We now have so different techniques and tools for testing an application with using that we can test the application even before it is ready . yes I am talking about the APIs and the Database which is the smallest unit of the application which we can test before it comes to us and later we may do integration or regression testing because half of our work is done already .

We always should have a attitude to learn and explore more on the things that can help us with our testing and self-growth .Thats how we can improve the quality of the product and quantity of your knowledge .

Links

https://m4i3.wordpress.com/murphy-laws/

https://www.innoq.com/en/blog/testing-is-storytelling/#:~:text=Tests%20do%20not%20only%20exist,developers%20how%20to%20use%20code.

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