Compact Character Notation, or "ComCards"

Compact Character Notation is an attempt to facilitate the creation of fully realized, complex characters for use in AI-Assisted Fiction. To do this, several goals must be balanced:

1. The characterization must be robust enough for a sufficiently-advanced AI to produce smooth and enjoyable prose.
2. The notation must be easily parsed and edited by humans without AI assistance.
3. Information should be as compact as possible, to ensure consistency over time through efficient token usage.
4. Characters should be self-contained, for easy use across multiple projects.
5. The same system should allow for creation of large "main characters" with complex personalities and goals, as well as more focused "side characters" with smaller token counts.

With these goals in mind, I give you a Compact Card:

Character Name[
(Gender) (In-universe descriptor 1) (In-universe descriptor 2 if needed)
~2-3 Physical Description tags
~4-8 Personality tags, with at least one "negative" trait.
~2-4 Secondary appearance tags, such as clothing or body language
In-universe special characteristics.
(Optional Tags can be added as needed)
(Organize additional tags with newlines)
]

Individual tags are separated by commas, and categories by newlines.

This ComCard can be utilized anywhere that the character's personality will influence the prose, in most cases without any special instructions–the AI can figure it out!

As a concrete example, here is a short ComCard for a minor character that might be found in a fantasy novel.

T'Sha[
Female Moon Elf Sage
Short Black Hair, Grey Eyes, Long pointy ears
Logical, Smart, Dry sense of humor, stern, loyal, lonely
Dark Grey robes with inlaid star maps, graceful movements
Only shows tiny hints of emotion
]

This format can be expanded with traditional "prose" characterization by adding additional newlines. Here is the same character, if she were the protagonist of a story.

T'Sha[
Female Moon Elf Sage
Short Black Hair, Grey Eyes, Long pointy ears
Logical, Smart, Dry sense of humor, stern, loyal, lonely
Dark Grey robes with inlaid star maps, graceful movements
Only shows tiny hints of emotion, doesn't feel she's earned her station.
On a quest to destroy the Cursed Sword of Syr Conrad
Secretly wants to learn how to dance, but is too afraid to ask.
T'Sha is the daughter of an Elven Ambassador. Though she is unaccustomed to rough travel, she is dedicated and steadfast when it comes to adversity. She is a bit too focused on decorum at times, and can sometimes cause problems due to her inflexibility. She wishes that she were able to express her wants and feelings better, but is deeply afraid of opening up too much and being found unworthy of love.
T'Sha is currently working with a Magical Salvage crew called The Green Clovers.
]

Note that the additions are focused on nuance and in-universe details, rather than overall characterization–the addition of prose should *enhance* the character, rather than *change* the character, so that the shorter "side character" version can still produce consistent characterization.

ComCards can also be used for items, organizations, or abstract in-universe concepts. These have looser standards, as the content will be more varied, though they still follow the same outline. Here are some original examples that might be found in a fantasy novel:

The Sword of Syr Conrad[
Cursed Longsword
Twisted iron hilt, inlaid diamonds, cruel spikes
Looking at it directly causes mild nausea, the wielder hears whispers in combat.
Currently possessed by the spirit of Syr Conrad, a fallen paladin.
To destroy it, the Spirit of Syr Conrad must forgive himself for his failure.
]

The Green Clovers[
Magical Salvage Team

Logo is a beautiful girl with four green pigtails.
They venture into the desolate badlands to retrieve valuable magical ingredients
Reputation for being screw-ups
]

SpellScript Magic[
Used to alter the current physical state of the world, using a set of predefined rules and limitations called "SpellScripts".
SpellScript Magic is very powerful, but inflexible. A fireball spell will burn as hot as the sun, but wouldn't be able to cook a meal without destroying it.
SpellScript Magic can be learned with long study, or specific SpellScripts can be bestowed by a god.
]

Source Magic[
Used to alter the current physical state of the world, outside of any predefined rules or limitations.
Unlimited in power, but difficult to utilize effectively. A fireball spell will only boil water, unless properly cast.]

These can also be nested as needed, such as this example with the aforementioned Moon Elf:

The Green Clovers[
Magical Salvage Team
Logo is a beautiful girl with four green pigtails.
They venture into the magical badlands to retrieve valuable magical ingredients
Reputation for being screw-ups
Member: T'Sha[
Female Moon Elf Sage
Short Black Hair, Grey Eyes, Long pointy ears
Logical, Smart, Dry sense of humor, stern, loyal,
Dark Grey robes with inlaid star maps, graceful movements
Only shows tiny hints of emotion
]

]