Character Archetype Cards

Each card defines core traits, motivations, conflicts, relationships, and gameplay opportunities for the character type.

## **Workshop Usage Notes**

* Each archetype can be modified for different genres
* Consider how archetypes interact with each other
* Use as starting point, not limitation
* Mix elements from different archetypes
* Consider how player choice affects archetype expression

## **1. The Reformer**

* Driven by perfectionism and ethical principles
* Seeks to improve systems and people
* Internal conflict between idealism and reality
* Strong sense of justice and morality
* Gameplay focus: Making ethical choices, inspiring others
* Challenge: Maintaining principles vs. pragmatic needs
* Relationship dynamics: Mentor, critic, visionary

## **2. The Broken Professional**

* Highly skilled but haunted by past failures
* Seeks redemption through their work
* Struggles with addiction or trauma
* Difficulty maintaining relationships
* Gameplay focus: Skill challenges with emotional stakes
* Challenge: Balancing personal recovery with professional duties
* Relationship dynamics: Mentor, liability, wild card

## **3. The Power Behind the Throne**

* Manipulates from the shadows
* Deeply understands human nature
* Conflicted about their influence
* Complex web of relationships
* Gameplay focus: Social manipulation, information gathering
* Challenge: Maintaining control vs. genuine connection
* Relationship dynamics: Advisor, puppet master, confidant

## **4. The Reluctant Hero**

* Thrust into responsibility against their will
* Natural leadership abilities they deny
* Seeks to return to normal life
* Strong moral compass but self-doubt
* Gameplay focus: Leadership decisions, personal sacrifice
* Challenge: Accepting destiny vs. personal freedom
* Relationship dynamics: Protector, inspiration, burden bearer

## **5. The Trickster**

* Uses humor to mask deeper truths
* Challenges social norms and authority
* Secretly wise and observant
* Unpredictable ally or adversary
* Gameplay focus: Creative problem-solving, social disruption
* Challenge: Truth-telling vs. manipulation
* Relationship dynamics: Wild card, truth-teller, catalyst

## **6. The Survivor**

* Shaped by past trauma
* Highly adaptable and resourceful
* Trust issues but loyal once earned
* Practical and sometimes ruthless
* Gameplay focus: Resource management, tough choices
* Challenge: Opening up vs. staying safe
* Relationship dynamics: Protector, loner, reluctant ally

## **7. The True Believer**

* Devoted to a cause or belief system
* Willing to sacrifice for their beliefs
* Questions their faith but returns to it
* Sees world in moral absolutes
* Gameplay focus: Faith-testing decisions, moral choices
* Challenge: Dogma vs. reality
* Relationship dynamics: Prophet, zealot, questioner

## **8. The Family Anchor**

* Puts family above all else
* Carries generational burden
* Struggles with personal identity
* Deep emotional connections
* Gameplay focus: Relationship management, legacy decisions
* Challenge: Family duty vs. personal growth
* Relationship dynamics: Caretaker, mediator, tradition keeper

## **9. The Ambitious Outsider**

* Driven to prove themselves
* Cultural or social outsider status
* Strategic and observant
* Complex about belonging
* Gameplay focus: Social climbing, identity choices
* Challenge: Authenticity vs. acceptance
* Relationship dynamics: Challenger, adapter, revolutionary

## **10. The Knowledge Seeker**

* Obsessed with understanding
* Sacrifices relationships for truth
* Ethical struggles with discovery
* Socially awkward but brilliant
* Gameplay focus: Research, ethical decisions about knowledge
* Challenge: Truth vs. human cost
* Relationship dynamics: Expert, mentor, obsessive

## **11. The Fallen Icon**

* Former hero or celebrity
* Struggling with lost status
* Seeking new identity
* Public vs. private self
* Gameplay focus: Image management, redemption choices
* Challenge: Past glory vs. present reality
* Relationship dynamics: Former leader, cautionary tale, advisor

## **12. The Peacemaker**

* Mediates between opposing forces
* Avoids personal conflict
* Deeply empathetic
* Sometimes enables problems
* Gameplay focus: Negotiation, relationship management
* Challenge: Peace vs. necessary conflict
* Relationship dynamics: Mediator, counselor, bridge builder

## **13. The Shadow**

* Dark mirror of protagonist
* Similar background, different choices
* Complex moral code
* Understands protagonist deeply
* Gameplay focus: Moral choices, parallel storylines
* Challenge: Redemption vs. rivalry
* Relationship dynamics: Nemesis, potential ally, warning

## **14. The Innovator**

* Pushes boundaries of possibility
* Struggles with human cost of progress
* Visionary but sometimes impractical
* Poor work-life balance
* Gameplay focus: Creation choices, ethical technology
* Challenge: Progress vs. responsibility
* Relationship dynamics: Mentor, pioneer, mad scientist

## **15. The Guardian**

* Protects others at personal cost
* Strong sense of duty
* Suppressed emotional needs
* Difficulty asking for help
* Gameplay focus: Protection choices, personal sacrifice
* Challenge: Duty vs. self-care
* Relationship dynamics: Protector, martyr, role model

## **16. The Deal Maker**

* Thrives on negotiation
* Complex web of favors
* Flexible morality but clear code
* Trust as currency
* Gameplay focus: Resource management, social networking
* Challenge: Profit vs. loyalty
* Relationship dynamics: Facilitator, opportunist, necessary evil

## **17. The Voice of Reason**

* Practical and grounded
* Often ignored until crisis
* Frustrated by others' choices
* Hidden depths of feeling
* Gameplay focus: Advisory roles, crisis management
* Challenge: Being heard vs. letting go
* Relationship dynamics: Advisor, conscience, realist

## **18. The Artist Soul**

* Sees world differently
* Struggles with conventional life
* Deep emotional sensitivity
* Creates beauty from pain
* Gameplay focus: Creative expression, emotional choices
* Challenge: Art vs. survival
* Relationship dynamics: Interpreter, dreamer, truth revealer

## **19. The Shapeshifter**

* Adapts to any situation
* Unclear true identity
* Master of manipulation
* Complex loyalty
* Gameplay focus: Identity choices, infiltration
* Challenge: True self vs. adaptability
* Relationship dynamics: Chameleon, spy, survivor

## **20. The Catalyst**

* Creates change wherever they go
* Unaware of their impact
* Natural disruptor
* Passionate intensity
* Gameplay focus: Causing and managing change
* Challenge: Impact vs. intention
* Relationship dynamics: Change agent, destroyer, revolutionary