

The EPIGUIDE.COM Fiction Writer's Character Chart / Dossier

Print this form and fill in as much info as possible for each main character you create.

Character's Full Name:		
Date this chart was completed:		

Reason or meaning of name:		
Nickname(s):		
Reason:		
Birth Date:		
Place of Birth:		
Ethnic Background:		
Religion:		
Degree of Religious Practice:		
Current Address:		
Does s/he rent or own?		
Brief Description of Home (apartment, trailer, house, other, etc.):		
Does s/he live with anyone?		
Describe the area in which s/he lives (big city, town, rural, other):		
Is this his or her ideal home and location? If not, what would s/he prefer?		
Home decor: ___ Expensive ___ Inexpensive ___ Carefully planned ___ Comfortable ___ Neat ___ Cluttered		
When someone walks in, what's their first impression?		
Any Pets? ___ No (why?) ___ Yes (what kind/how many/names?)		
How important are they? How well are they treated?		
Current Occupation:		
Income Level:		
Marital Status:		
Length of Time Married (if more than one marriage, include all):		
Name by Which S/he Addresses Spouse/Lover/Partner:		
How Did They Meet?		
Children (number, names, ages):		
Does s/he drive? Own a car? (Make, model, color, age, etc.):		
What's his or her most prized possession, and why?		

FAVORITES:		
Color:	Literature:	Food:
Music:	Hangouts:	

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:

Age:	Eye Color:	Glasses or contacts:
Weight/Height:	Type of build:	Skin tone: Skin type:
Distinguishing Marks:	Any famous person s/he looks like?:	
Shape of face/Predominant feature:		
General Health/Good, Excellent, Poor...?		
Chronic Conditions?	Current Conditions?	
How does s/he dress? (price/style): <input type="checkbox"/> Expensive/Conservative <input type="checkbox"/> Expensive/Trendy and Daring <input type="checkbox"/> Average/Conservative <input type="checkbox"/> Average/Trendy and Daring <input type="checkbox"/> Inexpensive/Casual (Whatever's comfortable?) <input type="checkbox"/> Inexpensive/Shabby		
Does s/he dress to be noticed? Why?		
Jewelry:	Other accessories:	
Grooming: <input type="checkbox"/> Very neat (Why?) <input type="checkbox"/> Average Grooming <input type="checkbox"/> Clean but sloppy <input type="checkbox"/> Unkempt (Why?)		
Describe Hairstyle (long, short, crewcut, dreds, bangs, side-part etc.):		
Natural Hair Texture (smooth, wavy, curly, etc.):	Current Hair Texture (if different):	
Natural Hair Color:	Current Hair Color (if different):	

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE/COMMUNICATION:

Pace: (Talks fast, Average, Slow...)	Voice Tone (high, average, deep, etc.):
Accent or Dialect, if any:	Favorite Words/Phrases? Curse words?
Mannerisms/Demeanor? <input type="checkbox"/> Cool/confident <input type="checkbox"/> Volatile/moody <input type="checkbox"/> Nervous/fidgety/shy <input type="checkbox"/> Other?	
Posture: <input type="checkbox"/> Stiff and rigid <input type="checkbox"/> Stands straight but not stiffly <input type="checkbox"/> Average, varies with mood <input type="checkbox"/> Slumped and defeated <input type="checkbox"/> Slouchy, careless <input type="checkbox"/> Relaxed <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Gestures: <input type="checkbox"/> Infrequently <input type="checkbox"/> Controlled <input type="checkbox"/> When excited/upset <input type="checkbox"/> Most of the time <input type="checkbox"/> Wildly/weirdly	
Favorite Gesture:	

FAMILY:

Mother's name:	Mother's current status: <input type="checkbox"/> living <input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship with her:	
Father's name:	Father's current status: <input type="checkbox"/> living <input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship with him:	
Any Step/Foster/Birth Parents (if not same as above):	
Sibling(s):	Birth order:
Relationship with each:	
Children of siblings:	In-Laws, if any:
Other than the above, who else in the story is part of his/her extended family (e.g. cousins, etc.)?	

THE PAST:

Hometown:

Type of childhood:

First memory:

Most important childhood event that still affects him/her:

Did/does s/he like school? Why or why not?

Significant Past Jobs:

Police Record (Arrest(s), convictions, sentence(s) served):

First sexual experience was with...?

First (romantic) love?

Major accidents or traumas? How is s/he still affected, if at all?

EVERYDAY BEHAVIOR / HABITS:

Finances: (prudent/cautious, some debt, lives paycheck to paycheck, deep in debt, criminal activity, etc.):

Personal Habits: Smoking, Drinking, Drugs, Gambling, Sex? Are any of these addictions?

Morning Routine: Describe the character's morning rituals. Who else is sleeping in the same bed? What time does he/she wake up? Is he/she cheerful in the morning? What does he/she do during breakfast-read, watch tv, feed kids, etc.

Afternoon/Workday: Does s/he work outside the home? How does he/she get there? Is s/he good at this job? What would he/she rather be doing? How long and hard is the work day? Does s/he have any friends, rivals, enemies?

Dinner: Does s/he eat at home or go out a lot? What is/are his or her favorite restaurant(s)? Who cooks at home? Who does he/she eat it with?

Evening: What does your character do on a typical evening? Where? With whom? How much does he/she enjoy it? What is the ideal evening for him or her?

Sleep Habits: Fall asleep easily, or an insomniac? Any recurring dreams? Sleep soundly, or toss & turn?

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS:

How does character relate to strangers?

Friends?

Spouse/Lover?

Own children, if any?

Other family members

The opposite sex?

Children in general?

Others who are more successful

Others who are less successful

Boss

Underlings at work

Competitors

Authority (police, IRS, politicians, attorneys, doctors, etc.)

What about him/her do family/friends like most?

What about him/her do family/friends like least?

Any secret attractions/crushes?

Person s/he dislikes most & why:

Person s/he likes most & why:

Person s/he most misunderstands or misjudges:

Person who most misunderstands or misjudges him or her:

MENTAL ATTITUDE/PERSONAL BELIEFS:

Optimist or pessimist: Why?

Introvert or extrovert: Why?

Most comfortable when ... (alone, hanging w/friends, drinking, etc.):

Most uncomfortable when ... (in a crowd, alone, speaking in public, etc.):

What does s/he most value/prioritize? (family, money, success, religion, etc.)

Whom does s/he really love best?

What would s/he be willing to die for?

Is s/he generally compassionate or self-involved?

Personal philosophy:

Past failure s/he'd be embarrassed to have people know about, and why:

If granted one wish, what would it be? Why?

Psychological issues (e.g. phobias, depression, paranoia, narcissism, etc.)?

Any prejudices (race, culture, sexuality, religion, etc.)?

Political party or beliefs, if any:

Does s/he believe in fate or destiny? Is s/he superstitious?

Character's greatest strength (whether s/he sees it as such or not):

Other good characteristics:

Character's greatest flaw (whether s/he sees it as such or not):

Other character flaws:

Character's chief vulnerability/soft spot:

Is this vulnerability obvious to others? If not, how does character hide it?

Quirks:

Biggest accomplishment:

Minor accomplishments:

Character's darkest secret(s)? Does anyone else know? How'd they find out?

How does s/he react to a crisis?

What types of problems occur most often? (Romance, jealousy, financial, etc.)

Whom does s/he secretly admire (nonromantic), and why?

Who was his/her biggest influence, and why?

Who's the most important person in his/her life right now, and why?

SELF-PERCEPTION:

Paragraph of self-description:

What's his/her favorite/least favorite physical feature?

How does s/he think others perceive him or her?:

Biggest regret:

Minor regrets:

What would s/he most like to change about self? Why?

ASPIRATIONS/THOUGHTS OF THE FUTURE:

Short term goals:

Long term goals:

How does s/he plan to accomplish these goals?

How will others be affected?

What event does s/he most fear?

What does he/she actively work to gain, keep or protect?
