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Fiction Writer's Character Chart

Once filled out, this chart helps writers get a firm grasp on characters.

Happy writing!
~ *Reb*

Date this chart was completed:

Character's Full Name:
   Reason or meaning of name:
Nickname:
   Reason for nickname:

Birthdate:
Astrological Sign:

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

- **Age**
  How old does s/he appear?
- **Eye Color:**
  Glasses or contacts?
- **Hair color:**

Distinguishable hair feature (bald, receding hairline, etc.):
Type of hair (coarse, fine, thick, etc?)
- Typical hairstyle:

- Height:
- Weight:
   Type of body/build:

- Nationality:

- Skin tone:
- Skin type:

- Shape of face:

- Distinguishing Marks?
   Scars?
- Most predominant feature:
   Resembles (famous or not):

- Accent?

- Is s/he healthy?
   If not, why not:

- Physical disabilities:
- Physical abilities (what is character good at? sports, etc.):

FAVORITES

- Color:
- Music:
- Food:
- Literature:
- Expressions:
- Book:
- Quote:
- Expletive(s) (swears):
- Mode of transportation:

HABITS

- **Smokes:**
  - **What?**
  - **How often?**

- **Drinks:**
  - **What?**
  - **How often?**

- **Worst bad habit?**

- **Quirks:**

BACKGROUND

- **Hometown:**
- **Type of childhood:**
- **First memory:**
- **Most important childhood event that still affects him/her:**
  - **Why?**

- **Lower education:**

- **Higher education:**

- **Booksmart or streetsmart?**

- **Religion and/or religious views and/or tendencies?**

Firsts:

- **Job?**

- **Kiss?**

- **Sexual experience?**

FAMILY

- **Mother (name):**
     - **Relationship with her:**
- **Father (name):**
     - **Relationship with him:**
- **Siblings:**
     - **Birth order:**
     - **Relationship with each:**
- **Children of Siblings:**
- **Extended family (aunts, uncles, cousins, etc.):**
- **Close to family? Yes/No**

CHILDREN

- **Does character have child(ren)?**
     - **How many?**
- **Are all children with the same partner?**
     - **If no, why not? If no, what is the custody arrangement?**
- **How does character relate to his/her child(ren)?**
- **Which child is character's favorite?**
     - **Why?**
- **Character's most favorite memory of his/her child(ren)?**
- **Character's least favorite memory of his/her child(ren)?**
- **Is relationship with children good?**
- **Is relatioinship with children important to character?**

OCCUPATION

- **Where does character work?**
     - **How many years?**
- **Relationship with co-workers?**
- **Like his/her job?**
     - **Why or why not?**

- **Dream job:**

ATTITUDE

- Greatest fear:
- Worst thing that could happen to him/her?
- What single event would most throw character's life in complete turmoil?

- Character is most at ease when:
- Most ill at ease when:

- Priorities:
- Philosophy:

- How s/he feels about self:
- Past failure s/he would be embarrassed to have people know about:
- If granted one wish, what would it be?
      Why?

- Daredevil or cautious?
      Same when alone?

- Biggest regret?

- Biggest accomplishment:
- Minor accomplishments:

- Character's darkest secret:
      Does anyone else know?
            If yes, did character tell them?
            If no, how did they find out?

PERSONALITY

- Greatest source of strength in character's personality (whether s/he sees it as such or not):

- Greatest source of weakness in character's personality (whether s/he sees it as such or not):

- Character's soft spot:
    - Is this soft spot obvious to others?
    - If not, how does character hide it?
- Biggest vulnerability:

- Which of the 7 deadly sins does character fight (or give into, willingly or not)?
    - *(lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, pride)*
- Which of the 7 virtues does your character have (or fight against)?
    - *(chastity, abstinence, leberality, diligence, patience, kindness, humility)*

TRAITS

- Optimist or pessimist?
- Introvert or extrovert?
- Drives and motivations?
- Talents (hidden or not)?

- Extremely skilled at:
- Extremely unskilled at:

- Good characteristics:
- Character flaws:
- Mannerisms:
- Peculiarities:

SELF-PERCEPTION

- One word character would use to describe self:
- One paragraph description of how character would describe self:

- What does character consider best physical characteristic?
- What does character consider worst physical characteristic?
    - Are these realistic assessments?
        - If not, why not?

- How *CHARACTER* thinks others perceive him/her?
- What four things would CHARACTER most like to change about self? (#1 most important, #2 second most important, etc.)

1.
2.
3.
4.

- If change #1 was made, would character be as happy as s/he thinks?
    If not, why not?

INTERRELATION WITH OTHERS

- Is character divorced? Why?
    If yes, how many times?
- Has character ever cheated on <u>any</u> signficant other?
- How does character relate to others?
- How is s/he perceived by...
    - Strangers?
    - Friends?
    - Wife/Husband/Lover?
    - Children
    - Co-workers?
    - Protagonist?
    - Antagonist?
- First impression character makes is:
    What happens to change this perception?

- What do family/friends like most about character?
- What do family/friends like least about character?

GOALS

- Immediate goal(s):
- Long range goal(s):
- How does character plan to accomplish goal(s)?
- How will other people around character be affected?

PROBLEMS/CRISIS

- **How character react in a crisis (calm/panic/etc.)?**
- **How does character face problems?**
    Kinds of problems character usually runs into:
- **How does character react to NEW problems?**
- **How does character react to change?**

GENERAL

- **Jewelry?**
- **Other accessories?**
- **Drives a ... :**
- **Where does character live?**
    With anyone? Yes/No
- **Where does character *want* to live?**
- **Spending habits (frugal, spendthrift, etc)?**
- **What does s/he do too much of?**
- **Too little of?**
- **Most prized possession: Why?**
- **Play musical instrument?**
    Which one(s)?
    How did s/he learn?
- **Does character like animals?**
- **Any pets?**
- **Likes music?**
    What kind?

TECHNICAL

- **Owns a computer? Yes/No**
    If not, why not?
- **Email address(es):**
    If more than one, each used for...?
- **"Handle":**
     Meaning to character:
- **Uses computer for business, pleasure, both?**
- **Play computer games?**
    If yes, which game(s)? If yes, how many hours per day?
    If so, are they/it multiplayere game/s?
- **Name used on each game & meaning to character?**
- **List 4 online site(s) (URLs) visited daily?**
    1.

2.
3.
4.

UNCATEGORIZED

- **Person character secretly admires:**
- **Person character was most influenced by:**
- **Most important person in character's life before story starts: Why?**

EXTRA:
- **[Writing Tools](#)**
- **[Blogs and writing practice](#)**
- **[Blog host](#)**
- **Tools for computer based writing**

***The Fiction Writers Character Chart is exclusive to [eclectics.com](#)
(http://www.eclectics.com)
and
[The Eclectics Writer](#)
(http://www.eclectics.com/writing/writing.html)***

URL: http://www.eclectics.com/articles/character.html
Email: reb@rebeccasinclair.com

+ Updates are posted on an unannounced & unscheduled basis, so check back often!

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