

CHARACTER SKETCH SHEET

Instructions: Add whatever details are pertinent for your character. Delete whatever questions are unnecessary or irrelevant.

BASICS

Character Name:

Gender:

Marital Status:

Book/Series:

Role in the story:

PHYSICAL TRAITS & OTHER GENERAL INFO

Nickname:

Age:

Birthdate:

Height:

Weight:

Build/Body Type:

Hair color:

Eye color:

Hairstyle:

Glasses/Contacts:

Jewelry/Accessories:

Birthmarks/Scars/Tattoos:

How did they get any scars?

How they dress? What kind of shoes do they wear? What kind of underwear?

Do they have children? If so, what kind of relationship do they have with their kids? Do they have custody? How do they get along with the other parent(s)?

Do they have pets?

What is their sexuality?

Occupation:

Dream Job:

Religion:

Living Situation/Residence:

Description of where they live:

Any former or current illnesses?

Special Skills/Abilities/Powers:

Hobbies:

Idiosyncrasies/Habits:

Do they curse? If so, what's their favorite curse word?

Who are their friends and social circle?

Who are they most at ease with?

Who's the most important person to them when the story opens? Describe the relationship:

Type of car they drive:

What is their favorite possession? Why?

Are they techie? Do they love or loathe computers, tablets, and smart-phones? What would they do without their phone for a day?

BACKGROUND INFO

Describe the character's childhood:

What's their most vivid childhood memory?

What type of schools did they attend?

Do they have any siblings?

Who are their parents and what are/were they like? What type of parenting style did they have? Or was this character raised by someone else? Who?

Where did they grow up? Describe the locale:

What is the happiest moment of their life so far?

The saddest?

What kind of special education or training do they have?

What other things in their past affect their current choices?

Have they ever been in love? Had their heart broken? By who? When?

What was their first kiss like? Their first love? How did it end?

What are their dreams and ambitions? What drives them? What are they most passionate about?

PERSONALITY TRAITS

What type of personality do they have?

What are their strongest and weakest character traits?

What non-physical trait do they like best about themselves? Least?

What physical trait do they like most about themselves? Least? Why? Would others agree or disagree?

What quality do they admire most in other people? Least? Why?

What do they think others like most about them? Least? Is that accurate? What drives this thinking?

What are their most important values?

When are they most at ease? Nervous? Anxious? Uptight?

What makes them laugh? Smile? Cry?

What makes them angry? Sad?

When do they feel most vulnerable? Lonely? Happy?

Describe a situation in which they would lie? How would they feel about doing so?

What are their biggest pet peeves?

How do they spend their downtime? Who do they prefer to hang with?

What are their likes and dislikes? Favorite sports, movies, tv shows, music, books, and food? What memories are associated with each?

What would they choose to do on a two-week vacation? Who would they go with? Or would they go alone?

How would they describe themselves? A night owl? Morning person? Anxiety-ridden or calm? Optimist or pessimist? Introvert or extrovert? Fulfilled or unfulfilled?

What does their home look like? Is it neat? A mess?

What is their general temperament?

How do they like to unwind after a long, hard day?

Are they good in emergency situations? Or would they panic? Who do they call first for help? Or would they prefer not to call anyone?

How do they interact with strangers? With friends? Their best friend?

Do they save everything? Throw stuff out easily? Do they hang on to items out of sentimentality? Do they collect anything?

If their grandmother gave them a gaudy hand-knitted sweater for Christmas, how would they react? Would they smile and say thanks? Put it on right away? Make a joke? Something else?

Who is their greatest hero? Why?

GOING DEEPER

Describe this character's overall story arc:

Describe this character's major motivation:

What is their biggest goal when the story opens? How do they think they will reach this goal? What are their future plans related to this goal? How does that goal shift or change through the story? Do they achieve their initial goal? Is it still relevant?

What is at stake for them in this story?

What do they think they need most right now to be happy?

What trauma(s) has this character lived through?

What is their biggest secret? Or what is one thing they wish no one knew about them? Will this be revealed in the story? How?

What is the most embarrassing thing about them they'd hate for anyone to find out? Does it come out in the story? How?

What is their biggest regret? How did that event/action impact their life? Their choices from that moment forward? Does it still affect them today? How?

What do they see as their biggest failure, past or present? Does this haunt them? How?

What is this character's greatest fear? How will you show this? Where did that fear come from? How do they normally react when confronted with that fear? How will the character overcome this in the story?

What is this character's greatest weakness? How will you show this?

What would this character never do? What would they love to do but can't? Why can't they?

When they are backed against a wall, is their instinct to fight or flight?

What are they struggling with when the story opens?

What is the lesson this character is going to learn?

What is their inner conflict?

External conflict?

How are they going to resist changing in the story?

How will you make them heroic and sympathetic? What traits, actions, and/or reactions will you use to reveal this? How will this be revealed in the opening pages of the story?

For a romance, why is this the worst time for them to fall in love?

What does this character's love interest see in them (their inner persona) that no one else does?

GENERAL STORY NOTES

Where in the story will the character's physical description be revealed?

How and where will their motivation be shown?

How and where will this character's quirks and personality traits be revealed?

Summary of important dates, decisions, and other timeline points for this character:

Other general story notes related to this character: