

Character BUILDER QUESTIONS



Great characters relate to readers. They create an emotional connection best created through their actions, choices and dialogue that stems from development that is often not read as part of the plot line. Sometimes you can use flashbacks, dreams or memories to refer to these moments. It is important that you as a creator KNOW your character.

BEGINNINGS

- What was your character's childhood like?
- Who were their parents? Any siblings?
- What did their parents do?
- Where did they live?
- How was school for them?
- Did they complete school? Why or why not?
- How were they as a student?
- Did anything happen as a triggering event during their childhood?
- How about during their teenage years?
- Do they still have a relationship with their parents? Siblings? Friends? Pets?
- Is there anything that connects your character to this time related to the plot?

WHO'S THAT?

- In the current timeline of your story, who is around your character? A spouse? A friend? A pet? A parent?
- How does this person connect to their beginning? If they are not connected to that time, when do they connect with your character?
- Write out dialogue only between your character and that person having dinner or a meal.
- Create a brief description about how your character first met this person, or a memory with this person that may get your character to react negatively. Do this again but change the reaction to a positive reaction

LIES AND TRUTHS

- Considering your character's beginnings, determine what it is they are struggling with.
- What lie are they saying to themselves? This may stem from something in their beginning or from an event connected to their who.
- What do they need to do to find that their lie is indeed a lie?
- What does your character believe about themselves? Why?
- Do they have a habit, trait, hobby, specific characteristic linked to this belief?
- What do they need to really believe?

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I am a writer too.