

Time to set the mood for your main character!
Any time I begin to write a new book, I always start with a good layout of my main character. *Why?* because characters are the absolute most important part of your story! Without well-developed characters, nothing feels complete, and you never bring the reader into your world.

Today we're diving into character development, specifically your main character. The true heart and soul of any good novel starts with believable and impactful characters. *But how does someone create such lively characters?* Well, I'm glad you asked! There are eight parts to developing a character.

#1)The Basics

#2)Zodiac (optional)

#3)Physical description

#4)Background

#5)Relationships

#6)Internal Characteristics

#7)External Characteristics

#8)The back story

The biggest tip I can give is to make a Pinterest board for your main character! You don't have to do a lot to start with; just pin 15 images to start. Find images of someone who looks like your main character or just pictures that deliver your main character's aesthetic!

Copy the information below into a document of your choice and fill out each question to develop your main character!

The Basics:

- Character name:
- Role in story:
- Age:

Zodiac:

- Zodiac:
- Zodiac Traits:

Physical description:

- Age:
- Height:
- Hair:
- Skin:
- Physique:
- Facial features:
- Scars:
- Clothing:
- Distinguishing features:
- Habits:
- Mannerisms:
- Voice:
- Fragrance:

Background:

- Ethnicity:
- Education:
- Religion:
- Personal experience:
- Occupation:
- Sexuality:
- Residence:

Relationships:

- Best friend:
- Other friends:

- Family:
- Enemies:
- Mom:
- Dad:
- Siblings:

Internal Characteristics:

- What is their greatest fear (aka, what is their misbelief about the world?)
- What is the biggest thing in their life?
- What is the worst thing in their life?
- What makes their heart feel alive?
- What makes them feel loved?
- Who was the last person to make them feel that way?
- Top three things they value most in life?
- How are they dissatisfied with their life?
- What do they think will bring them true happiness?
- How has their fear kept them from their happiness?

External Characteristics:

- What is their favorite book?
- What is their favorite movie?
- What is their favorite band/singer?
- What is their favorite song?
- Is there an object they can't bear to part without, and why?
- What is a typical outfit for them from top to bottom?
- What is their aesthetic?
- What names or nicknames have they been called throughout their life?
- Describe their daily routine:

- What are three things that could bring them joy?
- What are three things that irritate them?

The back story:

(The moment the character's greatest fear was developed)

- Life story summary:
- The moment that changed everything:
- What was the effect of this moment on the character? (expand on the greatest fear.)