



Character Study

“When writing a novel [or short story] a writer should create living people; people not characters,” Ernest Hemingway wrote. So how do we make our characters real? How do we add flesh to their frames, passion in their veins? dreams in their hearts? We get to know them!

First fill out this basic information:

Character's name:

Age:

Birthplace:

Current home:

Ethnicity:

Occupation or school:

Now answer as many of these questions as you can:

1. What is something about your character that no one knows?
2. What is her favorite time of day?
3. Who is his closest confidant?
4. What is something she collects?
5. What was his last nightmare about?
6. What is the first thing she thinks about when she wakes up in the morning?
7. What is something that fascinates him?
8. What is something that embarrasses her?



9. How does he like to celebrate his birthday?
10. What was the last book she read?
11. What is his favorite type of weather?
12. What is her best habit? Worst?
13. What is his earliest memory?
14. What makes her nervous or anxious? Jealous? Angry? Resentful? Sad?
15. Describe his level of self-confidence.
16. Describe her voice. When (or to whom) does she talk sweetly? Crassly? Thoughtfully? Shyly?
17. What defines and structures her day? Job? Children? Responsibility? Escaping responsibility?
18. What does health mean to him?
19. What does God mean to her?
20. What are the sources of intimacy in his life? Where else does he find intimacy *besides* romance?
21. What is her level of education? Her intellectual interests?
22. What does her home look like? And how long has she lived there?
23. What makes him blush?