
CHARACTER QUESTIONNAIRE TEMPLATE



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Work through the questions below in order, but don't rush yourself. If a question stalls you, sit with it for a minute. The questions that feel hardest to answer are usually the ones most worthwhile to work out.

Answer in your character's own voice where you can, not in your own. A character who says little will answer these questions differently than one who talks constantly, even on paper.

You can fill out the questionnaire from any point in your story. For example, you could do it first from your protagonist's perspective at the beginning of the story, and again from where they stand at the end to see how they've transformed.

It's ok to skip any question that genuinely doesn't fit your character or your story. This template is meant to prompt thinking, not simply to be filled out like a form for its own sake. If a question feels irrelevant, that's useful information too. It might tell you something about what actually matters to this particular character.

BASIC FACTS

Give your character's name, age, and current living situation. Include their job or role, and how they feel about it.

PERSONALITY

What are three words a stranger might use to describe them?

How about three words their closest friend would use instead?

Are either of those impressions accurate, or is your character putting on a show?

What are they like when they're angry? What are they like when they're scared?

BACKGROUND

Share the most defining moments of their childhood: a lie they were told growing up that they still half-believe, someone who shaped who they are — for better or worse.

WANTS AND FEARS

What does your character want more than anything?

What are they afraid will happen if they get it?

What do they secretly want that they'd never admit out loud?

RELATIONSHIPS

Who do they trust completely, and why?

Is there anyone they used to trust and don't anymore?

How do they act differently around people they're trying to impress?

SMALL DETAILS

Do they have any nervous habits?

Is there something they always order, wear, or carry?

What's a subject they'll talk about for hours if you let them?

UNDER PRESSURE

What do they do in the first ten seconds of a crisis?

What do they regret saying or doing the last time things went badly?

Who would they call first when something goes wrong, if anyone?
