

Story Building: Character *with Kayla Woodhouse* (CCWC, 2016)

Character Worksheet

Character and Plot are the two main elements of any story. If one or both are found wanting, chances are, readers will put down your story, disappointed.

Let's talk about characters. This worksheet is made to be applied to your story/current manuscript to get you thinking. Don't take this lightly – plunge in, all the way! Ask these questions and more. The purpose is to get you thinking – and developing.

REAL Characters:

- What is one specific quirk of your character?
- What is your character's biggest fear?
- What does your character live for – what is his/her driving force?
- What is his/her NUMBER ONE character quality (faithfulness, kindness, bravery, etc.)
- What is his/her NUMBER ONE character flaw (impatience, anger, pride, etc.)

Characters with a FAMILY TREE:

- Who is your character's mother?
- Who is your character's father?
- Who is/are your character's sibling(s)?
- What are those characters' significance to the story?
- What are those characters' significance to the character?

Characters with BACKSTORY:

- What major event happened in your character's childhood?
- Who was your character's hero as a child?
- What was your character afraid of as a child?
- What is your character's most important character trait – and who did they inherit/learn this from?

Character Studies:

Choose a character below, or choose a character of your own, to study in depth. Write down everything you can about them. What do you learn? What do you see? What do you hear? What does this character make you feel? What kind of impression does this character leave? Etc.

- Elizabeth Bennet, *Pride and Prejudice* (book by Jane Austen)
- Captain America, *The Avengers* series/movies (movies by Disney/Marvel)
- Han Solo, *StarWars IV – VII* (movies by Lucasfilm/Disney)
- Dr. Victor Frankenstein, *Frankenstein* (book by Mary Shelley)
- William Wallace, *The Scottish Chiefs* (book by Jane Porter) and/or *Braveheart* (movie by Paramount Pictures and 20th Century Fox)
- Fernand Mondago, *The Count of Monte Christo* (book by Alexander Dumas, movie by Touchstone Pictures)
- The Phantom of the Opera, *The Phantom of the Opera* (book by Gaston Leroux, movie – *The Phantom of the Opera 25th Anniversary Edition Filmed in the Royal Albert Hall – a* by Universal Pictures)

RESOURCES:

- *Goal, Motivation, Conflict: The Building Blocks of Good Fiction* by Debra Dixon
- *Writing the Breakout Novel* by Donald Maas
- *Writing the Breakout Novel: Workbook* by Donald Maas
- *Character and Viewpoint* by Orson Scott Card
- *The Write Nook* with Kim and Kayla Woodhouse
(www.kimandkaylawoodhouse.com/the-write-nook)