



**CHARACTER INTERVIEW**



## Character Interview

Rounding out your main character takes a lot of work, and sometimes the secondary characters wait patiently on the sidelines for your turn to reveal your layers and dimension. Invite all your characters over for an informal interview to get to know you. Before you arrive, brew a cup of tea or coffee and get out your pen and notepad. Casual attire preferred, and cookies are highly recommended.

### Start with basic ingredients:

Name	Vehicle
Ethnicity	Physical appearance:
Birthday	body type, posture, eye color,
Place of birth	nose shape, mouth, hair, skin,
Parents	tattoos/scars, voice, clothing
Siblings	Typical expressions:
Education	happy:
Jobs held	angry:
Married/Single/Divorced	frustrated:
Children	sad:
Pets	

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### Stir in several of these:

Economic/social status growing up	Wishes to spend time with
Places lived	Who depends on you and why
Favorite subject in school	What people do you most admire
Special training	Enemies
Travel	Talents
Friends	If you could do one thing and succeed
How do people view you	at it, what would it be?
Fights with	What is your favorite movie and book?
Spends time with	

## Add a teaspoon of intrigue:

What large possessions do you own (car, home, furnishings, boat, etc.) and which do you like best?

Health/ disabilities/ handicaps:

Idiosyncrasies:

Worst habit:

What makes you cry:

What cheers you up?

What annoys you?



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## Strengthen the brew with these questions:

Typical day:

Political leaning:

Collections:

Sports, recreation:

Do you resist change or embrace it?

Best way to spend a weekend:

A great gift for you:

What people like best about you:

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## Then top it off with a dash of something strong:

Do you like yourself:

What, if anything, would you like to change about your life:

What personal demons haunt you:

Are you lying to yourself about something:

What one thing other characters must never ever find out:

How are you viewed by others:

How would you describe yourself in five words:

Strongest/ weakest character traits:

How can the flip side of your strong point be a weakness:

How much self-control and self-discipline do you have:

What makes you irrationally angry.

How do you see yourself accomplishing your dreams:

What's the worst thing you've ever done to someone and why:

Greatest success:

Biggest trauma:

Most embarrassing thing that ever happened to you:

What do you care about most in the world:

Why will the reader sympathize with you?

How are you ordinary or extraordinary:

How is your situation ordinary or extraordinary:

List any psychological issues (delusions, obsessions, compulsions, addictions, denials, hypochondria, illnesses, behaviors harming self, behavior harming others, manias, and phobias):

What historical defining moment in your life resulted in a change of course?

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Exposition doesn't have to be in the first chapter. Sprinkle a little here, a little there. You don't have to include all these items in your manuscript, but knowing this information will round out the type of dialogue your characters use, your actions, choices, and responses to situations.

Now let your character be on your way while you get back to writing. And enjoy the leftover cookies on the table.

