



Character Bible Toolkit

Dear Author,

Understanding your protagonist(s) is the first step in writing a character-driven plot. (Read more on this in my Tips for writers article [Character-Driven Plot](#)).

Fill out as much or as little as you want on the following character profile worksheet (print as many as you need) and use these to build your novel's character bible. Keep in mind that your protagonist(s) will need a lot more fleshing out than the barista who is only mentioned once. In fact, you don't even need to fill out a character profile for the barista, but if you do, she just may inspire you to give her a bigger role or bring her back in a book of her own!

You can refer to these character profiles as you write your novel to ensure consistency and fill in more details as your novel unfolds, helping you fully develop your characters. That being said, not all of these things necessarily need to be mentioned in your book either. For example, some authors prefer to let their readers imagine the characters' physical appearances however they see fit. Unless it moves the narrative forward or is vital information to develop your character or explain their motivation for doing what they do, it could simply be filler.

It can be exciting to imagine your characters as real people and give them a full back story, and as a bonus, it can lead to a character-driven plot. Have fun with this exercise and happy writing!

Your editor,

Mandi Summit
Red Quill Editorial LLC

PS: when you're done writing, [Let's Discuss Your Manuscript](#) and secure your spot on Red Quill Editorial's calendar!



Character Profile Worksheet

Book Title: _____



Draw a picture of your character.

 Name: _____

This character is the:

- ☐ protagonist
- ☐ antagonist
- ☐ love interest
- ☐ mentor
- ☐ supporting character
- ☐ other: _____

First Impression

Nickname(s): _____

Birthday/Age: _____

Race/Ethnicity: _____

Gender Identity: _____

Sexuality: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____

Build: _____

Hair Color: _____

Hair Length: _____

Hair Type: _____

Eye Color: _____

Skin Color: _____

Distinguishing Features: _____

Influencing Factors

Hometown: _____

Current Location: _____

Religion/Spirituality: _____

Cultural Background: _____

Occupation: _____

Income: _____

Best Friend(s): _____

Pet(s): _____



Personality

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introvert | <input type="checkbox"/> Daredevil | <input type="checkbox"/> Confident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extrovert | <input type="checkbox"/> Cautious | <input type="checkbox"/> Humble |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Optimist | <input type="checkbox"/> Responsible | <input type="checkbox"/> Honest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pessimist | <input type="checkbox"/> Care-Free | <input type="checkbox"/> Cunning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dreamer | <input type="checkbox"/> organized | <input type="checkbox"/> Loyal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Realist | <input type="checkbox"/> Spontaneous | <input type="checkbox"/> Hesitant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book Smart | <input type="checkbox"/> Independent | <input type="checkbox"/> Generous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Street Smart | <input type="checkbox"/> Team Player | <input type="checkbox"/> Frugal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Graces

Flaws

Affinities

Food: _____

Color: _____

Music: _____

Books: _____

Hobbies: _____

Skills: _____

Dreams/Aspirations: _____

Priorities: _____

Aversions

Biggest Fear: _____

Darkest Secret: _____

Pet Peeves: _____



Character Arc

Your protagonist(s), at the very least, should be dynamic, meaning they change or grow over the course of the story. This transformation should relate to the linked internal and external conflicts (the central conflict) that results in the climax and resolution of your book, which can be determined from a few deep-rooted questions. (Supporting characters can also be dynamic, which can lend a secondary plot or even lead to a subsequent book of their own.)

The Problem: what problem or flaw does your character need to fix?

The Desire: what goal is your character pursuing that relates to their problem or improve their life? what do they want most? what is holding them back from achieving this?

The Need: what do they *really* need (think, soul-searching)? what life lesson will they learn from this?

The Transformation: How does this character change or grow over the course of the story?

Miscellaneous Details or Notes
