



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: _____

Community / Tribe

Family: _____

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

While supporting characters could be either static or dynamic, your protagonist(s) *must* be dynamic, meaning they change or grow over the course of the story. Their transformation should relate directly to their linked internal (point) and external (plot) conflicts, which result in the climax and subsequent resolution of your book.

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

The Desire: what goal is your character actively pursuing that relates to their problem? what do they want most or believe could improve their life? This needs to be a concrete concept so the reader can easily grasp if and when they attain it. And if there are multiple protagonists, do they have the same goal or opposing goals?

The Stakes: what will happen if they don't achieve their goal? what will happen if they do? Make it clear why this matters to your character. Also, how will your character's attempts to achieve their goal impact the plot?

The Conflict: what is holding your character back from achieving their goal? what is standing in their way? If you have multiple protagonists, whether they have the same goal or opposing goals, will this cause conflict between them or will they face this together? The conflict gives you a story worth writing about and your reader something to root for.
