

Character Architecture: A Deep-Dive Profile

Learning objective: To develop complex characters for narrative writing by considering motivations, internal conflicts, and nuanced personality traits.

Use this template to build a multi-dimensional character for your story. Think like an author: don't just describe what they look like, but explain why they act the way they do. Refer to the word bank to enhance your descriptive language.

Word bank: enigmatic · resilient · ambitious · trepidation · meticulous · spontaneous · dilemma · characteristic · flaw · perspective

1. Physical Appearance and Mannerisms: Describe your character's unique look and any specific habits or gestures they have. Why do these traits reveal something about their personality? (4 marks)

2. Core Motivation: What is the primary goal your character is striving to achieve? Explain why this goal is significant to them. (3 marks)

3. The Internal Conflict: Describe a hidden worry or a personal flaw that holds your character back. How does this conflict influence their decision-making? (4 marks)

4. Social Dynamic: How does this character behave when they are surrounded by others compared to when they are alone? Justify why there might be a difference. (4 marks)

5. Critical Turning Point: Imagine a scenario where your character faces a difficult moral choice. What might happen if they choose the path that goes against their own interests? (5 marks)

6. Author's Reflection: Compare and contrast your character with a typical hero. In what ways does your character challenge the reader's expectations? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a short scene (150-200 words) where your character is placed in an unfamiliar setting. Show, don't tell, their personality through their reactions to the environment rather than stating how they feel.