

Character Profile: Crafting Your Protagonist

Learning objective: To develop a complex character by considering backstory, personality traits, and motivations for a narrative.

Use this template to plan a main character for your own story. Think about what makes your character unique. Max the monkey says it helps to think of your character like a maths puzzle—every trait should add up to a believable person! Once you have finished, you can use these notes to help you write an opening chapter.

Word bank: protagonist · motivation · flaw · ambition · distinctive · characteristic · personality · backstory · appearance

1. Character Name and Role: Who is your protagonist? Give them a name and describe their main role in your story. (2 marks)

2. Physical Appearance: Describe what your character looks like. Use expanded noun phrases to add detail about their clothes, height, or special features. (3 marks)

3. Personality and Flaws: Every great character has strengths and weaknesses. Describe two traits that define them and one 'flaw' or challenge they have to overcome. (3 marks)

4. Motivation: What does your character want more than anything else in the story? Why is this their goal? (2 marks)

5. The Secret Detail: What is one thing about your character that nobody else knows yet?
This could be a hidden talent or a secret memory. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph in the first person (using 'I') where your character describes their favourite place to hide when they need to think.