



Blue Octopus Editing & Coaching Character Development Guide



Hello!

Character development can help you flesh out your character and give you insight into their needs and how they will act in your story. This guide gives you a quick way to get you thinking about your character's wants and needs. At the end of the day, and story, your character's emotional journey is what drives your plot and takes your story from good to great.

Below is a table to help you begin to flesh out your character. Try and go beyond the prompts to create a truly three-dimensional character that your readers will want to follow on their journey.

I have also included some Pro Tips that will help you understand why well-developed characters are so important to your story.

I hope you find this guide useful. If you have questions or want to take your characters and story from good to great, I offer several services at varying costs to help you reach your goals. Here is the link to my services. [Blue Octopus Editing Services](#)

Happy Writing!



Character Name

Age • Story Location

Role in Story protagonist, antagonist, pivotal, minor, parent, partner, sibling	
Occupation	
<i>Physical Description / Physiology</i>	
Sex	
Age	
Height & Weight	
Color of hair, eyes, skin	
Posture	
Appearance attractive, over or underweight, clean, neat, pleasant, untidy. shape of head, face, limbs	
Defects deformities, birthmarks, abnormalities, diseases	
Heredity	
Personality	
Habits, mannerisms	
Background	
Internal conflicts	
External conflicts	



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<i>Sociology</i>	
Class working, ruling, middle	
Occupation type of work, hours of work, income, condition of work, union or non- union, attitude toward organization, suitability for work	
Education amount, kind of schools, marks, favorite subjects, poorest subjects, aptitudes	
Home life parents living, earning power, orphan, parents separated or divorced, parents' habits, parents' mental development, parents' vices, neglect, character's marital status	
Religion	
Ethnicity	
Place in community leader among friends, clubs, sports	
Political affiliation	
Amusements, hobbies books, news, magazines the character reads, social media	

Notes:



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<i>Psychology</i>	
Sex life, moral standards	
Frustrations, chief disappointments	
Temperament choleric, easygoing, pessimistic, optimistic	
Attitude toward life resigned, militant, defeatist	
Complexes obsessions, inhibitions, superstitions, manias, phobias	
Extrovert, Introvert, Ambivert	
Abilities languages, talents	
Qualities Imagination, judgment, taste, poise	
I.Q.	

Notes:



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Pro Tips:

- 1) This may or may not be obvious, but you must know your characters deeply, inside and out, to know what they will do in every circumstance. How they will react, what decisions they will make.
- 2) Your characters, especially your protagonist (the main character), should be going through constant change. Not only do our bodies respond to external change, but so do our minds and emotions. This is the same for the characters you create.
- 3) All characters must face some sort of conflict. Especially your protagonist. Conflict creates an incentive or setting for your character to make decisions. Every decision they make sets in motion another decision for them to make. All these decisions should move the story forward.
- 4) Your protagonist must experience some form of growth. This growth is a reaction to a conflict they're involved in and make decisions about whether good or bad. Basically, character creates plot.
- 5) You can't force any of your characters to make decisions before they are ready. Their decisions must remain true to the character's personality and circumstances you created for them. Otherwise, they will not be believable, and you will disappoint your reader and lose their interest.
- 6) You can't force your characters into situations where they don't belong. For example, it wouldn't make sense to have a painfully shy, non-verbal character suddenly show up for a high school musical audition just so they can overhear a conversation that may be important later in your story. Again, they will not be believable, and you will disappoint your reader and lose their interest.
- 7) Two other important types of characters
 - a. The antagonist. This character creates conflict for your protagonist and stands in the way of their goals.
 - b. The pivotal character. This character forces other characters to grow. Their words or actions may trigger an event that changes the course of the story and/or pushes your protagonist to make a decision that moves the story forward.