

College Guild
PO Box 6448 Brunswick, Maine 04011

Biography

~ Creating a Character ~

Unit 2 of 4

Think of a movie, TV show or book that you like. Chances are, the characters are an important part of that movie, show or book. It wouldn't be the same without them.

Creating a believable and interesting character is hard work. Writers of fictional pieces have to put a lot of thought into their characters. If the author really knows her characters, she knows how they will react when she places them in any situation. Then, she can let the characters drive the story.

In this Unit, you will develop your own fictional character and answer many questions about him, creating the beginnings of a full biography. As you answer these questions, go with your instincts. Your character may take on a mind of her own!

Basic Information

1. **What is your character's full name (first, middle, last)? Why was your character given that name? Does your character have a nickname?**
2. **How old is your character? When was your character born?**
3. **What is your character's gender?**
4. **What is your character's race/ethnicity?**
5. **Describe your character's physical appearance. What is your character's height? Weight? Hair color? Eye color? Does your character have any unusual features, scars or birthmarks?**

People and Places

6. **Describe the place where your character currently lives and who, if anyone, your character lives with.**
7. **Describe your character's family—parents, siblings, grandparents, etc.**
8. **Who is your character's closest friend? Describe his or her friendship with your character.**
9. **Does your character have a significant other? If so, describe that character and his or her relationship with your character.**
10. **Does your character have children (or want to have children)? Please elaborate.**
11. **Describe the place(s) where your character grew up.**
12. **Describe a person who had a significantly bad or good influence on your character's life.**

Lifestyle and Favorites

13. Is your character employed? If so, how does your character feel about his or her job?
14. Is your character religious or spiritual? Explain.
15. What are your character's political attitudes?
16. What is your character's morning routine like?
17. What is your character's favorite food, and why?
18. What movies, books, shows and musical artists does your character like?

Deeper Questions

19. Describe your character's happiest memory.
20. Describe your character's saddest memory.
21. What is your character's biggest dream?
22. What is your character's greatest regret?
23. What is your character afraid of?
24. What would your character's perfect day look like?
25. What is your character's most treasured possession and why?

Reflection

26. What did you think of having to answer all of these questions? Was it challenging? Was anything surprising? Explain.
27. How would your character respond in each of the following situations, knowing what you know about them?
 - a. Your character is stranded on a desert island.
 - b. Your character wins \$1 million in the lottery.
 - c. Your character _____ . (Fill in the blank with your own situation.)
28. If you were to write a biography about your character, what kind of biography would it be and what would you title it?

Remember: First names only & please let us know if your address changes
