

## CHARACTER CHART & QUESTIONNAIRE

### Foreword

This is my *character-building framework*; you'll notice that its roots are going deep into the world the character inhabits. It is not necessary to answer all of the questions; most of them are here to stimulate the thinking process. In case you are dealing with non-humans, think of what other criteria there might be (e.g. completely different set of personality types based on their brain structure and information processing.)

This list is not edited and a bit messy, as I did not intend to sell it, or make profits from it in any way. Mistakes and repeating questions might pop up here and there, though I did a sweep a couple of times before putting this list online. Enjoy.

I haven't updated it since creation date, but I *might* do so, or even rework the list in the future.

### Contents

#### GENERAL

#### GOALS, MOTIVATION AND BACKSTORY

#### BIRTH AND DEATH

#### BIOLOGY, PHYSICAL APPEARANCE & MANNERISMS

#### MAIN CULTURAL ASPECTS

#### EDUCATION

#### PERSONALITY, TRAITS, ATTITUDE, SELF-PRECEPTION & BEHAVIOUR PATTERNS

#### PREFERENCES & TASTES

#### RELATIONSHIPS AND FAMILY

#### CHILDHOOD

#### CURRENT EMPLOYMENT & BACKGROUND

#### CURRENT RESIDENCE

#### MISCELLANEOUS

## GENERAL

### **Character full name and reason or meaning (symbolism, history) of name:**

*Does character like his name? Why? Why not?*

*If your character changed the name does he like it now? Why? Why not?*

*Does the name "fit" the character? If not, does a nickname? Or both? In what way.*

### **Nickname(s), alias(es) or codename(s) and their reasons:**

*Did your character have a nickname or pet name as a child? What was it? Did she like it?*

*Why? Why not? When (if at all) did people stop using it and why?*

### **Story, novel or series in which this character lives:**

**Time of story** (*past, present, future, years, era, etc.*):

**Alive or dead** (*when story starts*):

**Role in a story** (*includes narrator, protagonist, antagonist, main character, etc.*):

### **Symbolic associations:**

*Objects, conditions, etc (e.g. Flames, snow storm, apples, etc.). Not an archetype.*

*What symbol best represents them?*

### **Conflict (s)/challenge(s):**

### **Opponent(s):**

*What characters or situation opposes the character?*

### **Supporter(s):**

*Allies against the conflict or opponent*

### **Notes:**

## GOALS, MOTIVATION AND BACKSTORY

### *Main and Secondary Cast*

### **What is the character's active goal(s)?**

*An active goal is a specific, measurable goal. It cannot be easy, or there's no reason to tell the story. A difficult goal creates the first conflict in the story. There also must be the reason for the goal. Why does it matter for the central character? This reason is primary motivation throughout the story. Why does he want to achieve this goal? Who or what stands in the way of the character? Why? What strengths and qualities can help the character to achieve this goal? What weaknesses can make him fail?*

### **What short and long term goals does the character hope to accomplish in their lifetime?**

*How he plans to accomplish them? How will other characters be affected?*

### **What is the character's emotional need(s)?**

While the goal is known to the character, his emotional need seldom is. The reader can detect the need within a few chapters, but the character doesn't seem to be aware of the need. The need is what results in the character being content or even happy. Common needs include love and self-confidence.

### **What is the character's major flaw(s)?**

The reason character fails to see a need is usually a character flaw. The character may be too proud, or might have been emotionally injured. Regardless, the flaw is glaring, even if the reader only suspects the cause.

### **What is the backstory to be revealed?**

As the story progresses the backstory of central character must be revealed. How did he get to the point at which the story starts? Every story has a "history" the reader has to learn. As the character has to deal with emotions, the backstory is revealed to explain the deeper secondary motivation for the goal.

### **What motivates this character?**

#### **What does he actively work to gain, keep or protect?**

#### **What is the character's compelling need?**

Does he pursue it? Does he know what he pursues (has he caught it before) or does he imagine it? If he imagines it, does reality have much in common with his dream? If he knows it, how did he lose it?

Does he flee it? Does he flee certainty—that is, has he faced and suffered through that which pursues him in the past? If so, what certainty does he flee? How has it affected him? How will it affect him if it catches up to him again?

Is he more motivated to avoid pain, or to achieve pleasure? What pain does he most fear? What pleasure does he desire most? How can you force him to suffer through one to get the other?

What hardship in the past caused the character to need this? Who knows about this need? When did this need begin? How does the character plan to meet this need?

How has the character tried, and failed, to meet this need in the past? What daily events does this need affect? And how does it affect them? What price had the character already paid for this need? What price will he have to pay in the future? Who has been affected by the character as he pursues this need? Has this person, group, or class of people been hurt or helped?

What rules does he voluntarily follow in the pursuit of his need? (Rules of personal morality.) How might he break these rules? Why might he break them? What would happen if he did?

What rules are imposed on him from outside? (Rules of law and social convention.)

How might he break these rules? Why might he break them? What will happen to him if he does?

What rituals or habits spring out of the search for this need?

Where does the character pursue his goals?

What objects does he use in the pursuit of his need?

What good things has he done to move him closer to his goal?

What bad things has he done to move him closer to his goal?

## **BIRTH AND DEATH**

### **Birth date:**

(Comments on calendar date if any)

### **Place of birth:**

### **Astrological sign (if applicable):**

Does character believe in this?

Any other systems similar to astrology?

**Death date:** **Place of death:**  
*(Comments on calendar date if any)*

**Age at death:** **Cause of death:**

**Burial:**

**Notes:**

### **BIOLOGY, PHYSICAL APPEARANCE & MANNERISMS**

**Species/subspecies/race/ethnic origin:**

*If not human, how did the being evolve?  
 Where did it evolve?*

**Blood type:**

**Sex:**

**Age** *(when story starts):*  
*How old does he appear (age claimed)?*  
*How does character feel about her age?*  
*How others feel about her age?*

**Eye color:**

*Glasses, contacts, other eye issues (one-eyed, blind, short-sighted, etc):*

**Weight:** **Height:**

**Skin tone:** **Skin type:**

**Natural hair color:**

**Current hair color** *(if differs from natural):*

**Type of hair** *(coarse, fine, thick, etc):*

**Natural hair texture** *(smooth, wavy, curly, etc):*

**Current hair texture** *(smooth, wavy, curly, etc):*

**Typical hairstyle** *(hair length, shape):*

**Distinguishable hair feature** *(bald, receding hairline, etc.):*

**How does your character feel about his height, weight, hair, skin and eye color?**

**Type of body/build:**

*General constitution.*

**Shape of face:**

**Distinguishing marks or idiosyncrasies:**

*(freckles, birthmarks, tattoos, scars, other)*

**Peculiar physical traits:****Predominant feature:**

*Identifying trait, one physical trait the others would notice.*

**Looks like** *(someone, e.g. celebrity):*

*How does character feel about the way he looks?*

**Health:**

*Is character healthy? If not, why not?*

*Accidents, traumas, operations, illnesses, allergies, physical disabilities? Which and at what age? Consequences? How is he still affected, if at all?*

*Hospitalizations, chronic illnesses/conditions, past injuries.*

*Current Conditions?*

**Smell and scents:**

*How does your character smell?*

**Voice:**

*Tone (high, average, deep, etc.)*

*Does he have a distinguishing laugh?*

**Speech:**

*Speech patterns?*

*How seamlessly character speaks?*

*Does the character have an accent or dialect? If yes, describe.*

*Pace (talks fast, average, slow...)*

*What words or phrases do they use that defines them?*

*Expressions. Expletives. Curse words. Favourites.*

**Usual walking style:****Habits:**

*Nervous habits, annoying habits, etc.*

**Mannerisms:**

*Mannerisms/demeanour Cool/confident, volatile/moody, nervous/fidgety/shy, other?*

*Manners when alone, manners around same gender, manners around opposite gender.*

*Eating habits, mannerisms.*

**Posture:**

*Stiff and rigid, stands straight but not stiffly, average, varies with mood, slumped and defeated, slouchy, careless, relaxed, other*

**Gestures:**

*Infrequently, controlled, when excited/upset, most of the time, wildly/weirdly, etc.*

*Favourite gesture?*

**Right or left-handed? Both?**

**Is your character's handwriting neat and precise, or sloppy and unintelligible? Does your character care? Can he write at all?**

**Clothes size:**

**Shoe size:**

**Overall physical appearance:**

*How does character feel about his physical appearance?*

*How much attention does he pay to his appearance? Does he bathe often, wear makeup, fix his hair constantly? Is he stylish?*

**Special abilities and/or superpowers** (physical or mental):

*(Not a species trait; supernatural, exclusive to individual, if any)*

**Other:**

**Notes:**

## MAIN CULTURAL ASPECTS

**Culture:**

*From what ethnic or cultural heritage does your character come?*

*Are his family members still bound to their culture?*

*What celebrations does he observe that set him outside of the norm?*

*What beliefs does he hold that are outside those dictated by his culture? What are these beliefs?*

*How do they affect him and those around him?*

*Does he view his culture with favour or disfavour? Why? How do his views affect his relationships with others? Is his culture a majority one or a minority one? How are its values different from those of other cultures with which he comes into contact? How are its values similar to those of other cultures with which he's familiar? How does he view those of different cultures? In what ways does he more reflect values outside his own culture than those within it?*

*Is he still closely bound to his original culture (or cultures)? Does his original culture still exist intact anywhere in the world? Does it exert strong influences on many of those who were born into it? Is it a culture that emphasizes values, or action, or acquisition? How?*

**Nationality** (if socially different from ethnic background):

*How does character see himself? How others perceive him?*

**Social class:**

**Community status:**

*Does he care?*

**Citizenship** (if any):

**Religion/spirituality:**

*Does he belong to a particular religion or denomination within a religion?*

*What kind of person does he consider himself to be?*

*Religious background and current beliefs. Degree of religious practice.*

*What religion or spiritual belief system does he follow or followed?*

*How do these beliefs relate to the orthodox views of the culture?*

*How do his spiritual beliefs tie into his cultural and educational heritages?*

*What specific beliefs or values does he hold most dear? Why does he value them? How does this affect those around him, both those who do and those who don't share these beliefs?*

*What beliefs or values does he reject? How does his rejection affect those around him? Why does he reject them? Does he believe in fate or destiny? Is he superstitious? With whom does he willingly share his beliefs? Why? From whom does he hide them? Why? Have his beliefs ever been challenged? How did he face the challenge? By whom, and why? What was the outcome? What is his \*inner\* philosophy of life? Who / what does he find the most inspiring? Spiritual goals, if any.*

### **Moral/ethical beliefs, values:**

*Background and current beliefs.*

*How do these beliefs relate to the orthodox views of the culture?*

*Private values. How does your character decide what is right from what is wrong? Under what circumstances will your character put himself at risk for someone else? When will your character cheat? When will he lie? When will he tell the truth even if it will cost him? When will he stand up for what is right? When will he remain silent when he sees something that is wrong? Where does he suffer private moral weakness? Where does he hold private moral strength?*

*Public values. How do his personal values differ from his public values? What will he agree to publicly that he despises privately? What will he be self-righteous about publicly that he does privately? Where are his public and private values the same? When will he risk humiliation to stand up for what he believes? When will he let down someone who was counting on him rather than lose face with others?*

*If he ever committed a crime, what would it be and why? If he regularly commits crimes, what crime he won't commit and why?*

### **Personal beliefs** (other than religious):

#### **What he doesn't believe in?**

*Does he even think about it?*

#### **Priorities:**

*What does he most value/prioritize? (family, money, success, religion, etc.)*

#### **Philosophy:**

#### **Politics/political stance** (political views, affiliations):

#### **Programs** (subconscious mental pathways that color the world around):

#### **Other:**

## **EDUCATION**

### **What is his educational background?**

*Is it similar to that of others in his family or group?*

*Is it acceptable to those of his culture?*

*What values did or does his educational process emphasize?*

*What values did or does his educational process disparage?*

*How does he apply his education? How does it hinder him or others? How does it benefit others? How does it benefit him?*

**Best/Worst/Favourite subject (and why):**

**After school (or other educational institution) activities:**

**Level completed:**

**Age at completion:**

**General intelligence level:**

**Special training:**

**Describe the character's education during and after the teen years, as well as any military service.**

**Languages:**

*What languages does he speak?*

**Self-taught subjects:**

**Did he like educational institution? Why? Why not?**

*How was his academic performance?*

*Which role or function did he have in class?*

*Who was his best friend / worst enemy and why?*

*Describe your character's most prominent educational institution memory.*

**Life lessons:**

## PERSONALITY, TRAITS, ATTITUDE, SELF-PRECEPTION & BEHAVIOUR PATTERNS

**Personality:**

*Type, traits.*

*Optimist, pessimist, introvert, extrovert? Why?*

*How would character's friends describe his personality?*

*How would character's enemies describe his personality?*

**Temperament:**

*Ruled by emotions/logic?*

**Emotional style:**

*How does the character approach life? Calm, passionate, angry?*

**Learning style:**

*An individual's natural or habitual pattern of acquiring and processing information in learning situations.*

*What sensory modes dominate in mental processing:*

*visual thoughts - sight, mental imagery, spatial awareness;*



*auditory (or linguistic) thoughts - sound, speech, dialog, white noise;  
kinesthetic (or proprioceptive) sense - somatic feelings in the body, temperature, pressure, and also emotion.*

**Drives and motivations:**

**Positive traits:**

*Good characteristics*

**Negative traits:**

*Character flaws*

**Character's Best Trait** *(to character):*

**Character's Actual Best Trait:**

**Character's Worst Trait** *(to character):*

**Character's Actual Worst Trait:**

**Strongest character trait:**

**Weakest character trait:**

**Most positive character trait:**

**Most destructive character trait:**

**Character's Motto** *(to character):*

**Character's Actual Motto:**

**Actions while Angry:**

**Actions while Happy:**

**What is he angry about in the world? What cause is he most passionate about?**

**Responds positively / negatively to:**

**Likes/dislikes:**

**Hates:**

*(Reaction when presented with above)*

**Loves:**

*(Reaction when above are threatened)*

**Greatest passion:**

**Greatest love:**

**Whom does he really love best?**

**What are his pet peeves?**

**Does he tend to argue with people or avoid conflict?**

**Vices:**

**Type of Self Rewards and When:**

**Type of Self Punishments and When:**

**Greatest frustration:**

**Most painful setback/disappointment:**

**Biggest hurt / wound inflicted:**

**Most instructive/meaningful experience:**

**What is his greatest failure?**

**What does he consider to be their greatest achievement (accomplishment)?**

**Minor accomplishments:**

**What is his greatest regret? Why?**

**Minor regrets:**

**Self esteem:**

*Poor, Struggles, Average, Positive, Over compensating, Arrogant*

**Is he disappointed in who he is and what he has achieved?**

*Any self hatred or self destructive tendencies?*

*What can't he let go of and why?*

**Does your character feel competent and successful? Why? Why not?**

*Is he happy with current career / life situation?*

**Intelligence:**

**Sense of humour:**

**Self-awareness:**

**What are they exultant about in their own life?**

**Reaction to adversity:**

**Reaction to triumph:**

**How character reacts in a crisis:**

**How character faces problems:**

**Kinds of problems character usually runs into:**  
**How character reacts to new problems:**  
**How character reacts to change:**

**Emotional reaction to work:**

**Talents:**

*What talent does he wish he had?*

**Extremely skilled at:**

**Extremely unskilled at:**

**What things does he consider himself good at?**

**What things does he consider himself terrible at?**

**Hopes/Dreams/Desires/Ambitions:**

*What is his most secret personal wish or dream?*

*Greatest hope.*

*Dreams fulfilled / unfulfilled? Attitude towards that fact.*

*Had he achieved his dreams and goals? Why?*

*Who / what would he like to be? Why?*

*What is he obsessed with?*

*Strongest motivator/need.*

**Personal qualities** (*imagination, taste, etc*):

**Quirks or eccentricities:**

*Mannerisms, peculiarities.*

**Fears, anxieties, hang-ups or phobias:**

*Character's greatest fear. Why?*

*What event does he most fear?*

*Is there a reason? Describe.*

*Other psychological issues (paranoia, narcissism, etc.)?*

**How does he deal with stress?**

*How does character deal with anger?*

*With sadness? With loss?*

*Is the character honest with himself and others?*

**Has the character experienced any gender, nationality or ethnicity issues?**

*Any prejudices (race, culture, sexuality, religion, etc.)?*

**Does he tend to plan things out, or does he tend to be more spontaneous?**

**Daredevil or cautious? Same when alone?**

**Is he organized or messy?**

**Is your character patient or impatient? Why?**

**Does he tend to take on positions of leadership?**

**Does he like interacting with large groups of people?**

**Does he care about how others think about him?**

**How does he feel about self:**

*Does character like himself?*

*How does character see self?*

**Self-confidence:**

*What would embarrass?*

**What makes your character happy? Sad? Angry? Satisfied? Embarrassed?**

**Past failure he would be embarrassed to have people know about?**

*Why?*

**What is the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to him?**

**How does character interact with other characters?**

**How does he behave?**

**How does he speak?**

**How do he treat others in general?**

**What is this character proud of?**

**What is this character ashamed of?**

**Is there anything that he would simply refuse to do no matter what the circumstances?**

**Is there anyone or anything that he would die for?**

**What age group he is most/least comfortable around?**

**Is he generally compassionate or self-involved?**

**What is the one thing that he wants to be remembered for after he dies?**

**What types of problems occur most often? (Romance, jealousy, financial, etc.)**

**If he could change one thing about himself, what would it be? Why?**

**If granted one wish, what could it be? Why?**

**Where does he see himself in 5 years?**

**What does he consider to be the most important event of his life so far?**

**What is the worst thing that could happen to him?**

*What single event would most throw character's life in complete turmoil? Why?*

**Character is most at ease when:**

*Most comfortable when ... (alone, hanging w/friends, drinking, etc.)*

**Most ill at ease when:**

*Most uncomfortable when ... (in a crowd, alone, speaking in public, etc.)*

**Depressive or SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder)?**

**Greatest source of strength in character's personality (whether he sees it as such or not):**

**What is his greatest strength?**

**Greatest source of weakness in character's personality (whether he sees it as such or not):**

**What is his greatest weakness?**

**Character's soft spot:**

*Is this obvious to others?*

*If not, how does character hide it?*

**Biggest vulnerability:**

*Is this obvious to others?*

*If not, how does character hide it?*

*Vulnerability vs. Weakness*

*The distinction between coming across as relatable- as 'one of them', versus coming across as unsure of himself, is in the way character handles challenges. If he simply puts himself down or question his abilities, with no further mention of growth or goal-setting, he will come across as weak. If he faces his struggles honestly and focuses on his plan of action for overcoming them, that's not weak, it's inspiring. Everyone has moments of both.*

**Character secrets:**

**Character's darkest secret:**

*Does anyone else know?*

*If yes, did character tell them?*

*If no, how did they find out?*

**One word character would use to describe self?**

**One paragraph description of how character would describe self:**

**What does character consider best physical characteristic:**

**What does character consider worst physical characteristic:**

*Are these realistic assessments?  
If not, why not?*

**How character thinks others perceive him:  
How do others actually see him?**

**What four things would character most like to change about self?** (#1 most important, #2 second most important, etc.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

**Why?**

**If change #1 was made, would character be as happy as he thinks?**

**If not, why not?**

*What would he change if there were no restrictions of any kind on him?*

**Attitude towards life:  
Attitude towards death:**

**Does the character consider his own mortality?**

*If so, in what context? (work, hobby, chronic illness, acute illness, etc.)*

*Is he optimistic or pessimistic by nature?*

*Does he consider the mortality of others?*

**Does he fear death?**

*If he does not fear death, what gives him courage?*

*If he does fear death, how does he deal with his fear?*

**In what manner does the character risk his life?**

*Does he do so voluntarily, or under duress?*

*Does he do so on a daily basis, and if so, why, and how?*

**In what way does he avoid risk?**

*How does this avoidance hinder his daily existence?*

*How does this avoidance help his fears, and how does it make them worse?*

**In what way does the character value life?**

*What consequences have these attitudes had in the past?*

*Does he value others' lives, or merely his own? How does he act on these values? How would he like to act on these values? What consequences will they have in the future?*

**In what way does he trivialize life?**

*What consequences have these attitudes already had?*

*What consequences will these attitudes have in the future?*

**What is the most traumatic event he has suffered?**

*What caused this event?*

*Was there blame to be taken, and if so, who was at fault?*

*How have the scars from this event changed the direction of his life?*

*What would he have done differently if he could have changed one thing?*

### **What is the event that changed the direction of his life?**

*Does he consider this event as having influenced him positively or negatively?  
How has it really influenced him?  
What role did he play in this event?  
What role did those he cared about play in this event?  
What would he do differently if something similar happened again?  
How has he changed his life to accommodate or live with what happened?*

### **Where is his first memory?**

*Who or what was in it?  
What emotions does he feel when he thinks of the memory?  
What ties to his present life exist from this past memory?  
What of importance is gone and irretrievable from this memory?*

### **Who is the first person whose death he felt as a loss?**

*How did this death occur? How did he come to learn of it?  
How old was he when it happened?  
Could it have been prevented?  
How did the loss affect him at the time?  
How does it affect him now?*

### **What was the best thing he has ever done?**

*Was this moment of heroism or triumph private or public?  
Did he receive any recognition for his success?  
Did he experience any repercussions, whether positive or negative, for what he did?  
How did this event change him?  
Does it still affect him in any way?*

### **What was his moment of greatest humiliation?**

*How did it start?  
Who brought it about?  
Who witnessed it?  
What repercussions did it have in his life then?  
What repercussions does it have now?*

### **What event does he credit with making him who he is?**

*Is it the same event those around him believe was most formative?*

### **What is the best thing happening to him currently?**

*Is this something he has earned?  
Who else is involved in this?  
Is it something he's aware of? If not, how might he find out about it?  
What will be the effect if he doesn't find out? What will be the effect if he does? Who else knows?*

### **What is the worst thing happening to him currently?**

*Who or what is causing this problem?  
Is it something he can fix? If so, is there a reason why he hasn't yet? If not, who can fix it? If it must be lived with, how will it affect him?  
Is it something he is aware of? If not, how might he find out? Who does know? What will be the effect if he doesn't find out?*

### **What present-day goals does he have?**

*Are these optimistic or pessimistic goals?*

*Which goal is most important to him? Why? What will happen if he accomplishes it? What does he think will happen? How are these two things different, and what effect will their areas of difference have on his life?*

*Who knows about this goal? Who supports it? Who opposes it? Which goal is more important to someone else? To whom and why?*

### **What present-day failures does he struggle against?**

*How has he failed?*

*Whom has he failed?*

*Where has he failed?*

*Why has he failed?*

### **What present-day beliefs has he acquired recently?**

### **What present-day lies has he told?**

### **What does he believe his future holds for him?**

*Are his dreams built on a solid foundation, or on baseless fantasy?*

*Is he taking steps to make these dreams a reality?*

*Are the steps he's taking appropriate?*

*Will he succeed or will he fail, or something in between?*

### **Does he view the future as a positive or a negative place?**

*Who or what has helped him reach this view?*

*In what way is his view similar to your own?*

*In what way is it different?*

*How will this view change through your story?*

### **How does he dream of affecting the future?**

### **What dreams matter most to him?**

### **Who is in them?**

*What roles do these others play?*

*Are they people he knows, people he hopes to meet, or something else?*

## PREFERENCES & TASTES

### **Hobbies/Interests/Leisure and recreation pursuits:**

*What are character's current hobbies or non-work activities? Favorites among those?*

*Is there anything new he would like to try out? What? Why? Why not?*

*Does your character have a collection of anything?*

*Favorite pastimes. What does he do for entertainment?*

### **How did he come by his private interests?**

*Do his private interests have a cultural, religious, or ethnic component?*

*Every pursuit offers both pleasure and pain? What are the sides of this pursuit?*

*What price does he pay to pursue his private interests? Does his interest cost anyone else?*

*What benefit does he derive from his interests? Is this benefit private or public?*

*When did he discover this interest? Who influenced him to pursue this interest?*

### **Mode of transportation:**



**Where does character want to live?**

*Or does he like current habitat? Why? Why not?  
When someone walks in, what's their first impression?  
Where (else) would your character choose to live?*

**Sports:****Habits:**

*Smokes? What? When and how much?  
Drinks? What? When and how much?  
How does character spend a rainy day?  
What does he do too much of? Too little of?*

**General tastes and preferences in food, drink, art, music, literature, décor, clothing, brands, etc.:**

**Character's favourite place:**  
**Character's least favourite place:**

**Favourite food:****Least favourite food:**

*Hated dishes? Why?*

**Favourite color:****Least favourite color:**

*Why?*

**Favourite music:****Least favourite music:**

*Why?  
Plays musical instrument(s)? Which?*

**Literature:****Favourite animal and why:**

*Fond of pets? Why type (large, small, indoor, outdoor, etc)?*

**Preferable clothes, shoes, accessories:**

*Favourite style of dress; has he ever or does he currently have the means and opportunity to dress thus? How does he dress? (price/style): Expensive/Conservative, Expensive/Trendy and Daring, Average/Conservative, Average/Trendy and Daring, Inexpensive/Casual (Whatever's comfortable?), Inexpensive/Shabby. Does he dress to be noticed? Why?  
What do they enjoy wearing most?  
What does he wear to work? At home?*

**Least favourite clothes, shoes, accessories:**

*Why?*

**Jewelry:****Other accessories:**

**What is his most treasured possession? Why?**

**Other possessions** (*rare stuff, etc*):

**If your character became terminally ill, what might he or she place in a 'memory box' for a partner or child?**

**Which possessions might he dispose of so they would not be found?**

**How did your character celebrate his last birthday?**

**How does he plan to spend their next birthday?**

**Which birthday gift would he most like to receive?**

**Preferred method of socialization:**

*Hangout(s), current and past.*

*How often does the character seek out socialization?*

*What would he drink at a party, and how he would behave? During other social activities?*

**Hero(s); why?**

**What would the ideal date or evening out be?**

**Where does he think the best place to be on a Saturday night is?**

**What does a typical weekend hold for him?**

**What is his favourite breakfast?**

**What product does he use that he will never give up?**

**Where is the ultimate holiday destination and why?**

**Who would he most like to meet?**

**What intrigues or fascinates him?**

**What gives him hope and peace?**

**What destroys his hope and peace?**

## RELATIONSHIPS AND FAMILY

**How does character relate to people in general?**

*Strangers? Friends? Spouse/Lover? Own children, if any? Other family members? The opposite sex?*

*Children in general? Others who are more successful? Others who are less successful?*

*Boss? Underlings at work? Competitors? Authority (police, tax institution, politicians, attorneys, doctors, etc.)? Any secret attractions/crashes? Person he dislikes most? Person he*

*likes most? Person he most misunderstands or misjudges? Person who most misunderstands or misjudges him or her?*

**Most important person in character's life before the story starts:**

**Who is the most important person in his life and why?**

**Who is the person that he respects the most and why?**

**Person the character was most influenced by:**

*Why?*

**Whom does he hate? Who is the person that he hates the most?**

*How did this hatred begin? What came before it? Who started it? Is it mutual? Is it public or private? Is it a hot or cold hatred? Is it justified or unjustified?*

**Whom does he like?**

*What is the most important event they share? How did it happen, and when? What were the long-term consequences of that event?*

*Where do they spend time together? At work? Recreationally?*

*What do they not like about each other?*

*Who approves of their friendship? Who disapproves? Why?*

*How did they meet? Where? In what context—work, play, trouble, or good times? Does he accurately recall the circumstances of their meeting? If so, why?*

*What do they have in common?*

*Who knows about their friendship? Who doesn't? Why is the importance of it being known to or hidden from that person?*

**Whom does he love?**

*Why does he love this person?*

*How did he come to love this person?*

*What is the biggest hardship they have faced together?*

*How do they complement each other?*

*How do loved one drive him crazy?*

*How do they fight?*

*How do they make up?*

*What are their shared dreams? Which of loved one's dreams does he hate? Which of his dreams does loved one hates? Does either ever act to undermine the dreams of the other? If so, why?*

**Who is he loved by?**

**Person character secretly admires:**

*Why?*

**Sexual orientation/experience/values:**

*How does your character deal with an advance from a person whose gender he was not normally attracted to? How would you character respond if a person he was attracted to rejected his advances?*

**Relationship skills:**

**Patterns:**

*What does he find attractive in the opposite sex, and how would he approach a potential love interest? And how often he changes partners, etc.*

**Character's sex and romantic life and current marital status** (*married, involved, divorced*):

*Relevant background (previous marriages, affairs)*

*Why did his last romantic relationship end? Have he ever been dumped, and if so, why?*

*How sexually experienced is he? What sort of people has he had experience with?*

*Have he ever been in love?*

*What is his ideal mate?*

**Current relationship with family members:**

*How close is he to his family?*

**Parents:**

*Mother, relationships with her.*

*Father, relationships with him.*

*Grandparents.*

*Stepparents.*

*Other significant parental/marital info.*

*How past feelings about parents may have changed with time?*

**Siblings:**

*How many? Birth order.*

*Children of siblings.*

**Spouse(s) and their family:**

*Relationship to them.*

**Lover(s) and their family:**

*If not a lover, a love interest, significant other.*

*Relationship to them.*

**How long, how and when met, how serious?**

*Name(s) by which he addresses spouse/lover/partner:*

**Children:**

*Relationship to them.*

*If the character doesn't have children, how does he/she feel about them (want them)?*

*Who chose the names of any children your character may have?*

*Why these names?*

**Has character ever cheated on significant other?**

**Are they like their partner / spouse or completely opposite?**

**Where do they clash with their spouse?**

**What unites them?**

**What do they enjoy doing together?**

**What do they hate doing together?**

**What do they always fight about?**

**What do they never fight about?**

**Can they communicate openly with each other, briefly, why?**

**What is the main major blockage in the relationship?**

**Is the relationship destructive, briefly, how?  
Are either of them romantic? Is this a hindrance?**

**Is he happy about his current relationship status? Why? Why not?  
Is he happy about past relationship(s)? Why? Why not?  
Who chose the engagement/wedding/divorce date and why?  
Describe the engagement/wedding/divorce, if any.**

**Close relatives:**

**Extended family? Close? Why or why not?**

**Drawing of Family Tree:**

**Current relationships with key figures from his/her youth:**

**Friends:**

*Best friend, when, why, current relationship?  
Who would he turn to for help? Who can he rely on in a crisis?  
Does he trust anyone to protect him? If so, then who?  
If he suddenly went missing, who would come looking for him?  
Does he have any close friends; define relationships.  
Where in his group of friends does he fit in?  
Who are his closest friends?  
What brought them together?  
What holds them together?  
What kind of people would you describe the friends as being?  
Does he spend much time in the company of his friends, or is he more a loner?*

**Enemies and adversaries:**

*When, where, why, current relationship?  
Recent regrettable character encounter/relationship(non-romantic).  
Past regrettable character encounter/relationship (non-romantic).*

**Others:**

*Professional relationships and other bonds.  
How does character relate to others?  
The people he admires, despises, wishes to impress, wants to outdo, etc...*

**Summarize the character's relationships to the other major characters in your story.**

**How is he perceived by...**

**Strangers?**

**Friends?**

**Spouse/Lover?**

**Hero/Heroine?**

**How does character view hero/heroine?**

*First impression. Why?  
What happens to change this perception?*

**Readers' first impression of character.***Why? What happens to change this perception?***What do family/friends like most about this character?****What do family/friends like least about this character?****CHILDHOOD****Type of childhood:***How would you describe the character's childhood in general? Happy/unhappy? Why?***When growing up, how did they get along with their family?***Did he feel he was the favoured/disfavoured child? Was he?***Relationships to parents:***How would your character's mother describe him a) as a child and b) now?**What does his mother most admire and dislike about him?**How did your character experience her mother a) as a child and b) now?**What does he most admire and dislike about his mother?**How would your character's father describe him a) as a child and b) now?**What does his father most admire and dislike about him?**How did your character experience his/her mother a) as a child and b) now?**What does he most admire and dislike about his father?***Relationships to siblings (if any):***How would his brothers and sisters describe him a) as a child and b) now?**What do his brothers and sisters most admire and dislike about him?**How did your character experience his brothers and sisters a) as a child and b) now?**What does he most admire and dislike about his brothers and sisters?***Which of them, if any, was their parents' favourite and why? How did that feel?****Relationship to other key people from his youth:****Lifestyle while growing up:****Health:***Childhood illnesses and traumas, etc.***Childhood activities (hobbies, interests, favorite pastime):****Who was character's friend in childhood, in teen years:****Location(s) where he grew up:****Feeling about childhood:****What did character's parents want for him?****What is his earliest memory?**

**What is his best and worst memory?**

**Childhood Trauma:**

*How trauma affects character today?*

**Event that will affect plot:**

*Most important childhood event that still affects him. Why?*

**Biggest influence/Mentor:**

*Describe any influences in his past which led him into becoming the person that he is today.  
Who has had the most influence on him and why?*

**Friends/Teachers/Relatives/Pets from past that could influence plot  
(includes invisible friends/dolls/bears):**

**Childhood habit hardest to break and how it affects character today:**

**What did he want to be when he grew up?**

**Special childhood abilities:**

**Childhood hideout:**

**What was his school like (if any) and how did he like it there?**

**Where did he learn the skills and abilities that he most uses in the present?**

**When growing up, did he have any role models? Heroes?**

**What did he want to be when he was a child?**

**When he was a child, was he popular? What were his friends like?**

**When was his first kiss and who with?**

**Who was his first love?**

**Is he a virgin, and if not, when and with whom did he lose his virginity?**

*What was character's first crush and first romantic encounter like?  
What were their effects?*

**What were his worst fears in childhood?**

**How did character rebel during childhood and teen years?**

**What responsibilities did he gain?**

**What privileges?**

**Which toys and activities did your character enjoy most/least as a child?**

**Why?**

**What type of child was he (energetic, adventurous, rebellious, sullen, etc.)?**

**How much have he changed; why?**

**When he was in trouble, what would be the most likely kind?**

### **CURRENT EMPLOYMENT & BACKGROUND**

**Location** *(when story starts):*

**Occupation/profession** *(when story starts):*

*Past employment and why left if any?*

**What influenced your character's career choices?**

*Would he rather have done something else? What? Why? Why not?*

**How did he acquire his job?**

*With whom does he work? Who loves him? Who hates him?*

*How does his work benefit him?*

*What did he learn in order to do his job? Where did he learn it? From whom did he learn it?*

*What price did he pay to learn?*

*How does his work extract a price from him? How can he succeed?*

**Describe his first day 'on the job'.**

**Describe a day in your character's working life.**

**Employer:**

**Salary:**

*The world's currency or its equivalent.*

**Job-related skills:**

**Professional aims, goals and ambitions:**

**Professional "lingo":**

**Other (later) occupations if any:**

**Significant past jobs:**

**Awards/recognition:**

**Notes on "Work Personality":**



**Describe the character's relationships to his boss and co-workers (if any):**

**How does character feel about his job?**

**Skills:**

**How intelligent is he?**

**Income:**

*Financial status (past, current, future – desperate, struggling, average, secure, wealthy)*

**Income goals:**

**Spending habits:**

*Frugal, spendthrift, etc. Why?*

*What is your character's attitude toward money or its equivalent? Is your character a bit of a spendthrift, or prone to spend freely?*

**Morning Routine:**

*Describe the character's morning rituals. Who else is sleeping in the same bed? What time does he wake up? Is he cheerful in the morning? What does he do during breakfast-read, watch tv, feed kids, etc.*

**Afternoon/Workday:**

*Does he work outside the home? Does he comes from work every evening or stays on short/long shifts? How does he get there? Is he good at this job? What would he rather be doing? How long and hard is the work day? Does he have any friends, rivals, enemies?*

**Dinner:**

*Does he eat at home or go out a lot? What is/are his favourite restaurant(s)/food places? Who cooks at home? Who does he eat it with?*

**Evening:**

*What does your character do on a typical evening? Where? With whom? How much does he enjoy it? What is the ideal evening for him or her?*

**Sleep Habits:**

*Fall asleep easily, or an insomniac? Any recurring dreams? Sleep soundly, or toss & turn?*

**Favourite thing to purchase:**

**Wants to purchase:**

**Biggest accomplished achievement in life:**

**Awards/Recognition (non-work):**

**Current Relationship:**

**Relevant Friends:**

**How the character relates to each:**

**Past relationships that affect plot:**

**Last relationship:**

*How did it end & why?*

**Does character have a criminal record of any kind? If so, why?**

**Has character ever killed or seriously hurt someone?**

*What were the circumstances? How did it make them feel?*

**Has character ever been in danger of death or serious injury?**

*What were the circumstances? How did it make them feel?*

**What is the most foolish thing character ever done?**

**What is the most altruistic thing character ever done?**

**Significant memories, birth dates, anniversaries:**

**Places visited, why and length of time:**

### CURRENT RESIDENCE

*Ask the same for past residence(s)*

**World/system/planet:**

*Address*

**Area:**

*(country, state, county, city, street, etc)*

**Type of Home:**

**Condition of Home:**

**Reason/History of Home:**

**Time spent in this Home:**

**Roommates/Housemates/Guests/Family in Home:**

**Neighbourhood and neighbours:**

**Grounds:**

**Outside Upkeep Habits:**

**Interior Design:**

**Furnishings:**

**Inside Upkeep Habits:**

**Notes:**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**The most bizarre thing about your character:**

**The very best thing about your character:**

**The very worst thing about your character:**

**How does character spend the week/month/year before the story starts?**