

Prompts for Character Development

Students may use the following questions to assist them with developing a more believable character.

Family Life

1. What is your character's opinion of its father and/or mother? What are the qualities it likes or dislikes about its parent(s)? What influence did the parent(s) have on the character?
2. Did the character experience a disciplined or permissive upbringing?
3. Did it feel more rejection or affection as a child?
4. Does the character have any brothers or sisters? What are the characteristics of its sibling(s) that it likes or despises?
5. What was the economic status of their family? What were the positive or negative implications of the status?
6. Does the character have children of its own? How does it feel about its children? Does it enjoy being a parent?

Ways of Thinking

7. Is your character street-smart, book-smart, witty, or uncreative?
8. Do they consider themselves creative even though they are not (or vice versa)?
9. How does their creativity – or lack thereof – reflect in their vocabulary and pronunciations?
10. Did/do they like school? What did/does it think of its teachers and classmates?
11. What was/is engaging about their school experience (sports/drama/chess/specific subject/school architecture or location)?
12. Does your character have a healthy imagination? Does it daydream a lot or not at all?
13. Do they have a sense of humor? What do they consider funny?
14. What do they like to ridicule?
15. What they consider something as an insult to their intelligence?

Physical

16. How old is your character? Does it have a gender?
17. What are the physical characteristics of your character (height, weight, tattoos, exceptionalities)?
18. Do they have a healthy self concept?
19. Does it have a unique or mainstream sense of style (clothing, hair, walk, creative products)?
20. Do they try to project an alter image of themselves (as younger, older, more important person than they actually are)?
21. Do they have physicality? Are they invisible?
22. Does your character have super physical exceptionalities?
23. What are your character's gestures? Does it move quickly and clumsily or slowly and controlled?
24. What is the pitch, strength, rhythm of its voice/speech? Does it have a unique accent or a peculiar way of pronouncing certain words?
25. Does it have defining facial expressions (cheerful, stern, unfocused, thoughtful)?

Behaviour

26. Does the character have good or bad manners? Is it manipulative or transparent in its actions?
27. How does your character react to stressful situations? Will they act defensively, aggressively, or evasively?
28. Do they live a healthy lifestyle or do they abuse to their bodies?

Personality

29. Does your character think first before it acts? Will it act responsibly or recklessly?
30. Does it always look for the positive or negative side of situations?
31. Is it a visionary or does it follow someone else's lead?
32. What is your character's weaknesses (pride, controlling, greed, push-over, insecurity, uncreative, revengeful, suspicious, scared, clumsy)?
33. What are its strengths (patient, healing, empathic, creative, innovative, physical/mental exceptionalities)?

Interests

34. Who are your character's friends? What do they do together for fun?
35. Are they interested in love? What do they look for in a partner?
36. Are there social activities in which your character participates? What role do they have in the activities?
37. What type of character or hero does your character admire? Whom do they dislike?

Work and Travel

38. Does your character have a job? Do they like it or would they be more content to do something entirely different?
39. Is your character well-traveled? If so, when and where did it travel and for what reason(s)?
40. What did they learn from traveling?
41. If it has not traveled, would it like to? Where would it choose to go and for what reason(s)?

Life Outlook

42. What does the character live for? Does it have a purpose in life?
43. Is the direction of their life based on something that happened to them in the past?
44. Does your character regret past actions? Can it forgive others for affecting them negatively?
45. What does your character feel passionate about (music, food, patterns, colours, keeping secrets)?
46. What does your character want most out of life? What are they willing to do to achieve their aspiration(s)?
47. Does your character have any secrets?
48. What significant life experience(s) has altered your character's life (political, social, economic, spiritual)?
49. Do they worry about things that happen to them in life?
50. Do they prefer to live in the past, considering their distant memories far more important than their life's present content?