

WRITING RESOURCE

CHARACTER ANALYSIS QUESTIONNAIRE

Prepared by Aleesah Darlison



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Aleesah Darlison is an award-winning author of over 50 books for children. She has won or been shortlisted for numerous awards including the Environment Award for Children's Literature, the CBCA Eve Pownall Award, and the Speech Pathology Book of the Year Awards. Many of Aleesah's books champion the cause of animals, the environment, and child self-empowerment.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS QUESTIONNAIRE

Characters are key to any story. Readers fall in love with our heroes and love to despise our villains. But if they're not portrayed believably, readers will switch off, turn away, shut the book. As a writer, it's crucial that you know your characters – inside and out – before they step onto the page. If you don't know them, you can't write them. This questionnaire is designed to enable you to think deeply about your characters and to get to know them before you start writing your story. Ask yourself – or your characters – these questions and you might be surprised with the answers!

General Character Questions:

First Name

Surname

Middle Names

Nickname

Date of Birth

Age

Physical / Appearance:

Height

Weight

Build

Hair Colour

Hair Style

Eye Colour

Eye Shape

Glasses or Contact Lenses

Distinguishing Facial Features

Other Distinguishing Features

Scars

Birthmarks

Tattoos

Clothes

Handicaps

Race/Ethnicity

Mannerisms

Health



CHARACTER ANALYSIS QUESTIONNAIRE

Personality:

Favourite catchphrase
Words they can't pronounce properly
Introverted or extroverted
Down to earth or stuck up
Bad Habits
What makes them LOL
How do they treat others
Affectionate? How? If not, why not?
Like being indoors or outdoors
How they want to be seen by others
How they see themselves
Strongest character trait
Weakest character trait
Pet Peeves
Idiosyncrasies
How competitive are they
Clear thinker or snap judgements
Positive or negative about life
Greatest fear
Response to criticism
Response to praise
Have any big secrets
How often do they cry
Philosophy in life
Anything that haunts them
Political views
Who do they quote



CHARACTER ANALYSIS QUESTIONNAIRE

Friends and Family:

Family Size
Perception of Family
Siblings? Older or Younger?
Best Friend
Ideal Friend
Other Friends
Colleagues / Acquaintances
Relationship Status
Children
Pets

For extra character development depth, create a detailed family tree for them.

Background and Future:

What they were like as a baby / child
Did they grow up rich or poor
Nurtured or neglected
Worst thing they've ever done
Greatest achievement
Biggest secret
Worst lie
First kiss
Ambitions / Goals
Advice they would give to their younger self
Smells that remind them of childhood
Saddest memory
Happiest memory
Best friend as a child
Greatest disappointment



CHARACTER ANALYSIS QUESTIONNAIRE

Love:

Do they believe in love at first sight
Ever been in a relationship
Behaviour in relationships
Ever been in love
Ever had their heart broken

Conflict:

Response to threats?
Fight with fists or tongue
Kryptonite
Perception of strangers
What do they love to hate
Phobias
Choice of weapon
Most hated person
Who do they love the most
Ever been bullied
Enemies

Work, Education and Hobbies:

Current job and do they like it?
Past jobs
Hobbies
Educational background
Specialist training
Do they play sport? Are they good at it?
Natural talents



CHARACTER ANALYSIS QUESTIONNAIRE

Favourites:

Animal
Song
Book
Movie
Colour
Food
Superhero
Country / Place

Possessions:

What's in their fridge
On their bedside table
In their purse or wallet
Most treasured possession
Family heirloom

Spirituality:

Guardian Angel
Religious Views
Believe in the Afterlife
Superstitions
Zodiac Sign

Daily Life:

Eating Habits
Minimalist or Hoarder
Tidy or messy bedroom
Soft drink of choice
Tea or coffee

