

SHANNON WAITE

CREATE a CHARACTER

Fit for Transgressive Fiction

Transgressive characters feel confined by society's norms and expectations so they try to break free of those confines in unusual or illicite ways. This two-page worksheet will guide you in creating a character just like that.

You can use this for a story you are about to write, or you can try it out in a messy way with no intention of using any characters you make (but find out you fall in love with them and wind up using them anyway). It's a fun game to play with no restrictions, so I recommend just making as wild, transgressive of a character as you can and see what you come up with.

This worksheet is not meant to develop your story, so you'll notice it doesn't ask you for how your character overcomes a problem or what challenges get in the way.

Instead, it's meant to help you plan an interesting, complex character who you can plop into a scene and watch the way the character interacts with what's going on. From there, you can figure out what your character's story will be (if you don't already know it).

For more ideas and resources, sign up for my newsletter at

www.shannonwaiteauthor.com



Name: _____

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What norm(s) does your character go against?

And why?

What's your character's secret?

How is the secret revealed?

What does the character want?

(This may or may not be the same as/
related to the secret)

Personality

You can see personality traits in a character's immediate actions. These actions show who someone seems to be. A personality is more visible - think of it as how we judge someone.

Character

A set of morals and beliefs that are abstract. They define how characters treat *others* and show who a character really is. Character traits are shown over time, through repeated actions.

Traits

Self Controlled
Persistent
Spiritual
Impatient
Unforgiving
Ambitious
Calculating
Desperate

Persuasive
Twisted
Confident
Loyal
Greedy
Cruel
Fearless
Vengeful

Independent
Hard-working
Responsible
Confident
Demanding
Bossy
Impulsive
Inventive

Reliable
Responsible
Adaptable
Honest
Brave
Selfish

Which personality traits will guide your character's actions while they try to get what they want?

Which character traits will show who the character *really* is?

Name:

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Name

Age

Location

Something else you could call them (like: Cigarette, Mountain Man, or Minx)

What shoes do they wear?

(What I really mean is you should list 1-3 physical things you might not normally notice)

One thing people think about your character that's not true

Does your character have a redeeming quality? What?

Write a paragraph showing your character interacting with someone they live with, or someone they can't stand.

Write a paragraph with a shocking scene that shows your character's secret being revealed/discovered/found out, or your character's response to the now known secret.

These scenes may or may not go in your story. You do not want to include a shocking scene in your story just for the sake of shocking readers. This practice is just meant to get to know how your character acts, more than anything.