



DEVELOPING CHARACTERS
WITH AUTHOR DENISE VEGA

WRITING INTERESTING CHARACTERS

- Interesting characters - attitude/personality, reader can connect with them in some way even if they aren't completely likeable.
- In the best and most interesting stories, the main character (and often a secondary character or two) grows or changes in some way. S/he might realize something, try something new, or form a new relationship— whatever it is, we must feel that the character is somehow changed by having gone through the events of the story.
- Who are some of your favorite literary characters and why?



IDENTIFYING YOUR CHARACTER

- Think of someone in your life that you know really well (family member, friend, relative, teacher etc)
- Write his/her name down



IDENTIFYING YOUR CHARACTER (CON'T)

List 3-5 of their personality traits – use this lists below to help you!

Bossy

Nosy

Grumpy

Silly

Wise

Talkative

Mischievous

Smart

Show-offy

Shy

Confident

Crazy fun



NOW LET'S DO SOMETHING WITH YOUR PERSON

- Select one of the personality traits from those you wrote down
- Select one of the scenarios below. Put your character in that scene in a way that you are *showing* that character trait (don't tell us the person is shy or confident, etc). We should be able to tell the personality trait by the way the character behaves in the scene.

SCENE 1: Character comes out of school bathroom with toilet paper stuck to his/her shoe.

SCENE 2: Character flunks a test.

SCENE 3: Character gets shoved while playing a sport.

SCENE 4: Character finds a coin that makes him/her invisible for five minutes.

SCENE 5: Character doesn't get the part s/he wants in the play.



TIPS ON CREATING CHARACTERS

- Consider writing in first person to explore your character, even if the final story ends up in third person. This is a great technique for getting to know your character better. You can even interview your character, writing questions, then answering them from your character's point of view. I've done this and it works!
- Develop your character in a way that feels the most natural to you. Some writers do character sketches or biographies, listing where the character was born, favorite colors, etc. Other writers learn about their characters as they write, then go back and revise their stories based on what they now know about the character.
- Listen to your character. Sometimes you may plan out your story and find that once you start writing, your character is not behaving the way you want him or her to behave. Give your characters space to become who they are—they may surprise you and your readers, and that's always a good thing.



KEEP IN TOUCH! WRITING TIPS, INSPIRATION AND MORE!

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