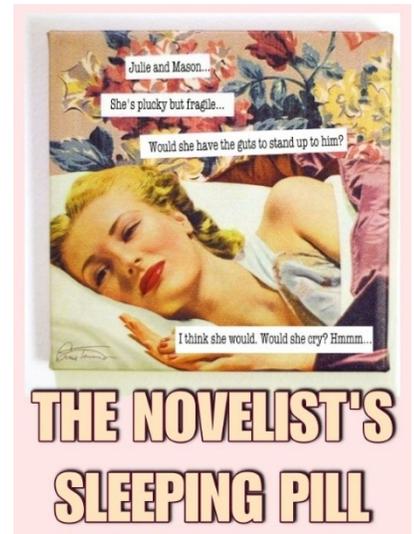


WORKSHEET "WRITING DYNAMIC CHARACTERS"

Character and plot are the two main ingredients of excellent fiction. **Characters bring your plot to life.** Let's look into **HOW** to create good characters and **HOW** to bring them to life.

Character is the basis (and catharsis) for every element of the book: the journey, the conflict, the suspense, and the resolution. Each character is made up of his **appearance** & his **personality**.

YOUR MISSION... think of a main character you already created, or build one right now. We are about to workshop!



1 : APPEARANCE *...it's more than a pretty face...*

a) Face & body, clothes, grooming, body language, voice, health (handicaps, illness, shining with fitness?):

b) Psychology and family background (so often intertwined!).

c) Does he/she have children? How many, what gender? Did he have them young in life, old, average? Do they live with him?

d) WHERE does he / she live?

e) Education? Employment? Does he/she have a police record?

f) Finances, past and now? What are their material possessions, and do they have a favorite belonging?

g) What's the romantic history?

h) What are the animals or pets in his / her life?

2: PERSONALITY: WHAT ARE YOUR CHARACTER'S...

a) INHERENT ABILITIES OR DISABILITIES? Is he a genius? Prodigy? Color blind? ADD? Dyslexic?

b) RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY? Organized religion? At home or in-heart religion? New Ager? Etc.

c) IDENTITY? Roles in life – dad, mom, son, police officer, teacher—also become our identity. How about your character?

d) MORALITY? Is he prejudiced? Does he know right from wrong the way God sees it? The way man sees it? In his own mind?

e) SEXUALITY? His orientation? Is he open about his sexuality or closed off? Wanton? Prudish? Etc.

f) MOTIVATION? What drives him? What are his secret dreams and goals?

g) FRIENDSHIPS AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS: you are affected by the company you keep. Who does your character hang with?

h) SELF-AWARENESS / CONFIDENCE: how does he perceive himself?

i) WHAT ARE HIS VICES? HABITS? QUIRKS? FAVORITE FOODS?

j) IS HE CHARITABLE?

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Download this worksheet as often as needed at this link: <http://www.ellencmaze.com/author-appearances.php>

Sections of this teaching were gleaned from *THE PLOT THICKENS* by Noah Lukeman. Highly recommended reading! ~ Ellen