Identity *(essential)*

Metadata

Author's name

Character's setting, story, or series

Appellations: What is the character called?

Character's full name

Character's nickname(s) and alias(es), if any

Character's title(s), if any

Origins: Of what groups is character a member?

Character's species

Character's ethnicity, race, or extraction

Character's nationality of birth or ancestry

Character's citizenship or current nationality

Basics: What are the character's vital statistics?

Character's birthdate and age as of specified date

Character's sex and gender, if different

Character's height (meters or feet and inches)

Character's mass/weight (kilograms or pounds)

Description *(essential)*

Appearance: What does the character look like?

Overall physique, face and head, torso or trunk
Limbs: arms/hands (fore), legs/feet (hind), other
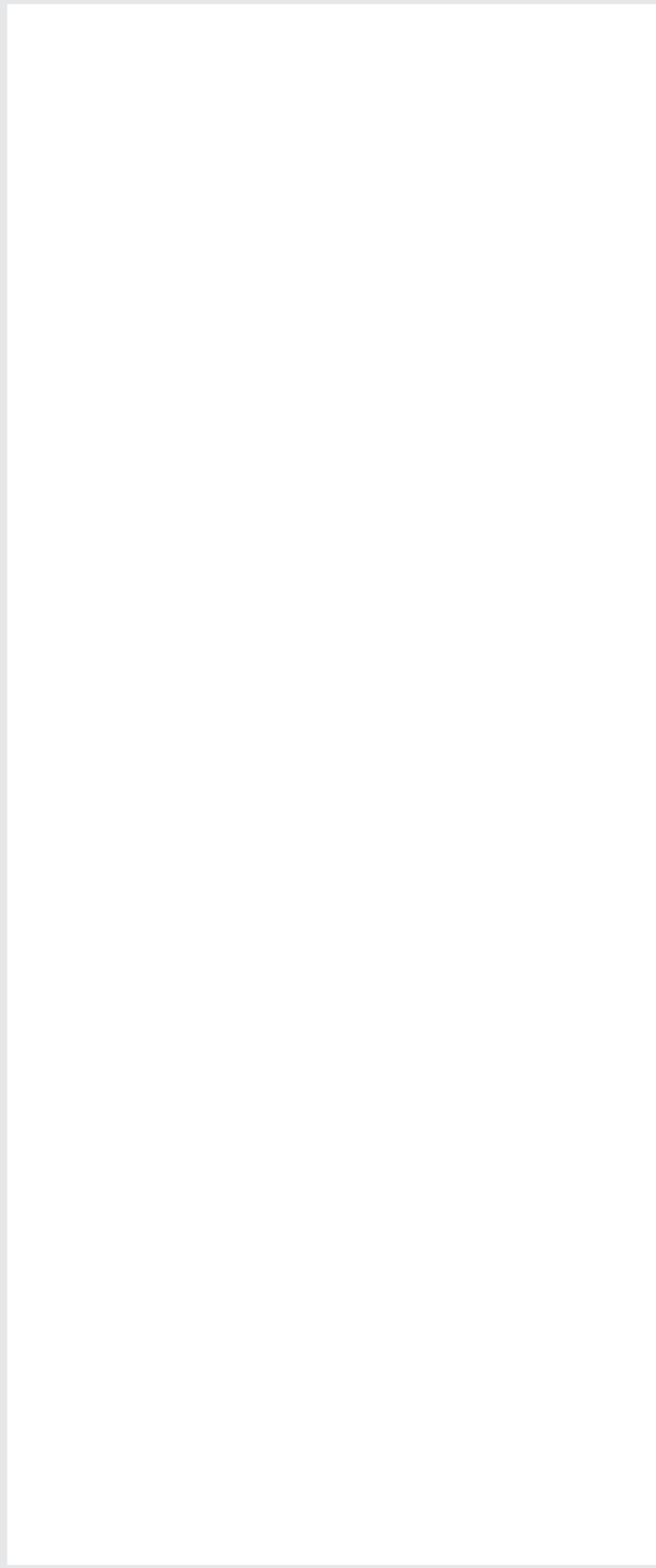
Details: What distinguishes the character?

Integument (e.g., skin, fur, feathers, scales, coloring)
Markings (e.g., birthmarks, scars, tattoos)
Eyes (e.g., color, shape) and hair (e.g., color, style)
Voice (e.g., pitch, smoothness, volume, accent)
Anatomy (e.g., unusual conditions or afflictions)
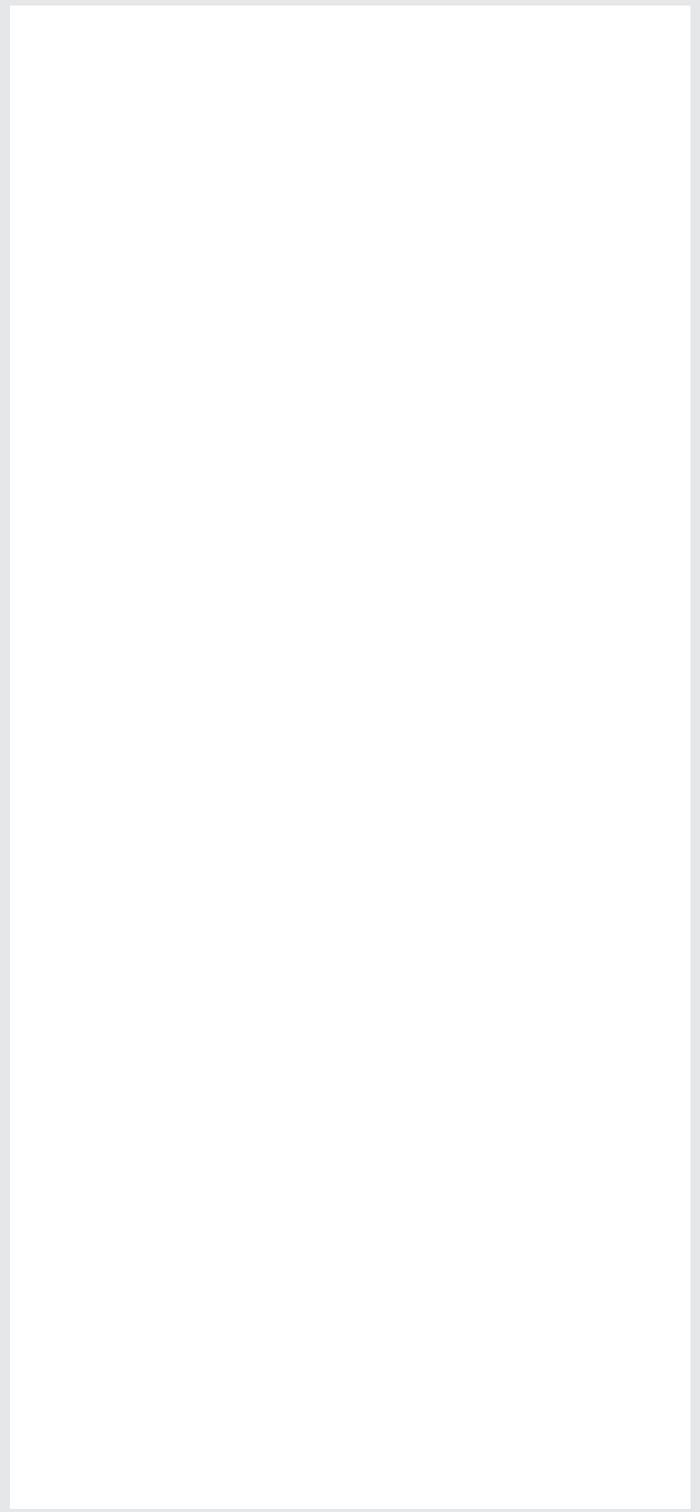
Description (cont'd.)

Body Language: How does the character move?

Default facial expression (when not emoting)
Posture, typical gestures/motions, gait (walk & run)
Speech, overall expressiveness and animation

Accoutrements: What does the character wear?

Clothing (e.g., formal, casual, specialized)
Prostheses (e.g., eyeglasses, braces, artificial limbs)
Typical equipment (if any), other details

Personality *(essential)*

Weaknesses: What are character's negative traits?

Weakest points, traumas or scars, taboos or fears
Regrets, lost opportunities, neuroses or psychoses
Qualities in self, and activities, character dislikes

Strengths: What are character's positive traits?

Strongest points, activities the character enjoys
Qualities the character admires in him- or herself

Personality (cont'd.)

Ideals: What guides the character?

Philosophy of life, what makes life worthwhile
What is worth dying for, what galvanizes character
How the character sees his or her future

Tastes: What does the character like or enjoy?

Hobbies, pastimes, and sense of humor
In the arts (e.g., music, graphic arts, literature)
Favorite graphic elements (e.g., colors, styles)
Favorite fantasy (not necessarily sexual)

Personality (cont'd.)

Self-image: What does character think of self?

How the character sees him- or herself
How the character *wants* to see him- or herself
How far character is from the desired self-image
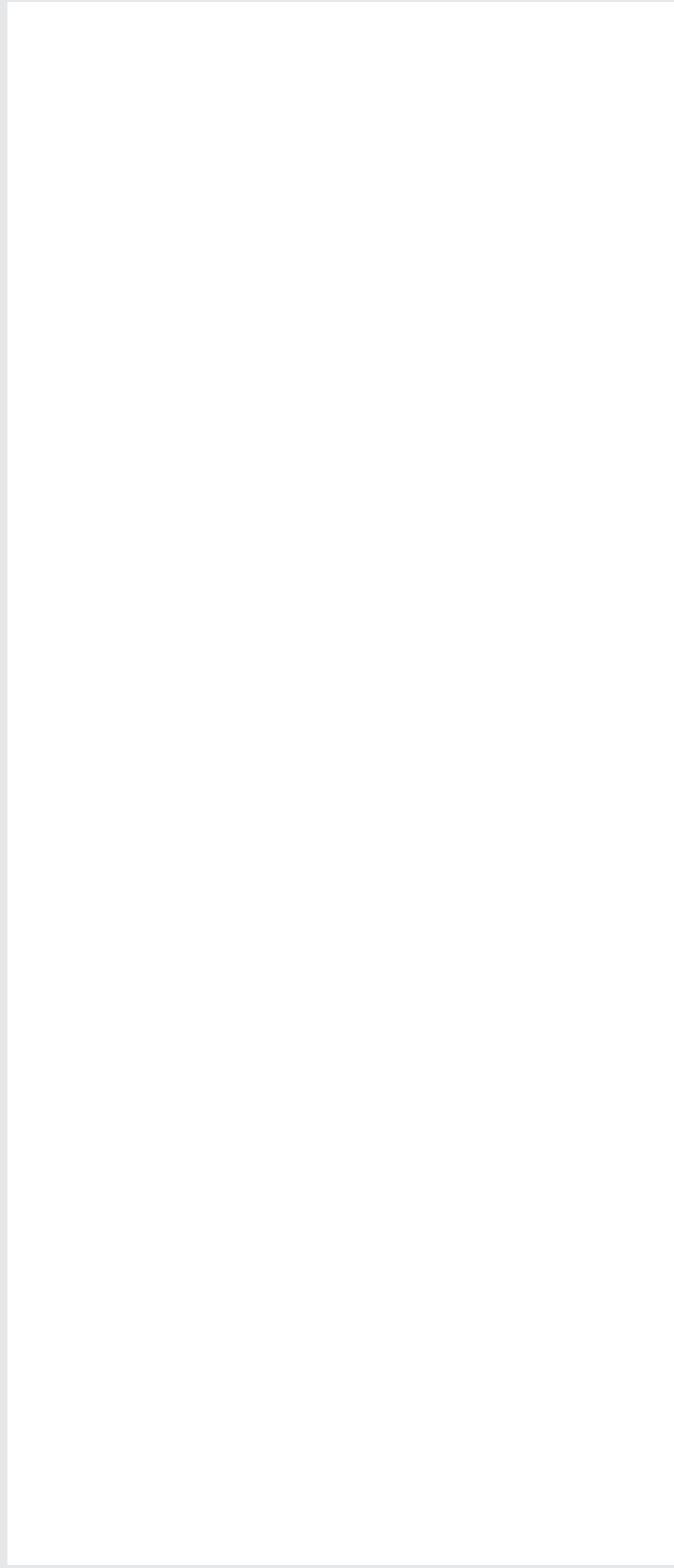
The Present: How will character drive the story?

What is the character's current problem?
How will it get worse?
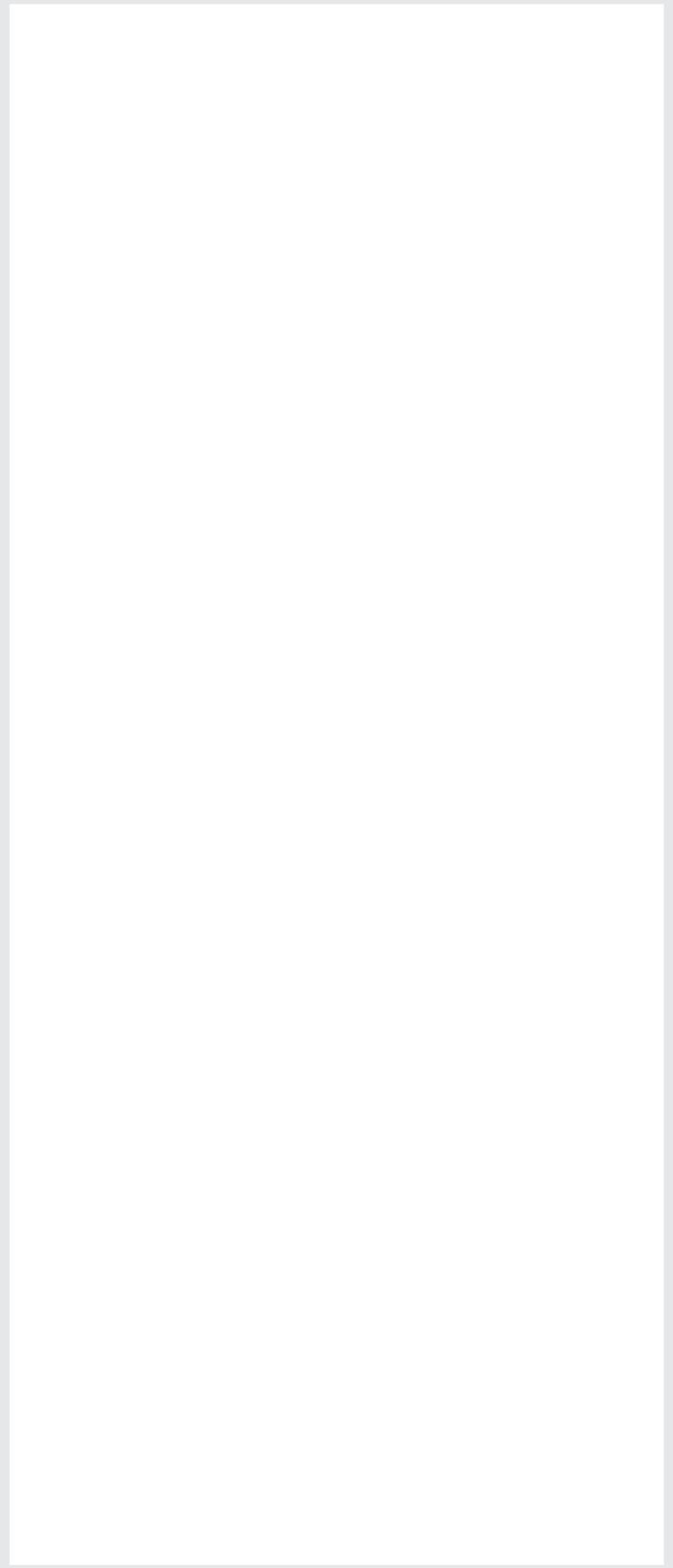
Biography *(recommended)*

Childhood: What was his or her early life like?

Birthplace (locale, city or region, nation)
Describe character as a child, outline childhood
Incidents that most affected character, how & why

Adolescence and Adulthood

Outline the character's later life to the present
Incidents that most affected character, how & why

Biography (cont'd.)

Background: What else is important?

Formal education, work experience, special skill(s)
Proudest achievement(s) and greatest shame(s)
Other person of greatest influence, how, and why

Relationships: What ties to other people?

Family (nuclear & extended), clan or tribe (if any)
Friends/acquaintances (e.g., lovers, best, contacts)
Enemies and rivals (e.g., greatest, professional)

Connections *(recommended)*

Viewpoints: How does he/she see the world?

Views on: money and wealth, ambition and power
Views on: religion and philosophy, home and travel

Relations: How does he/she see personal ties?

Socialization (introverted or extroverted, details)
Views on: family and marriage, love and sex
Views on friendship and enmity

Connections (cont'd.)

Looking out: How does character regard others?

Activities of, & qualities in, others character likes
Activities of & qualities in others char. dislikes/hates

Looking in: How do others regard him/her?

How others view, and react to, the character
How he or she *wants* them to view and react
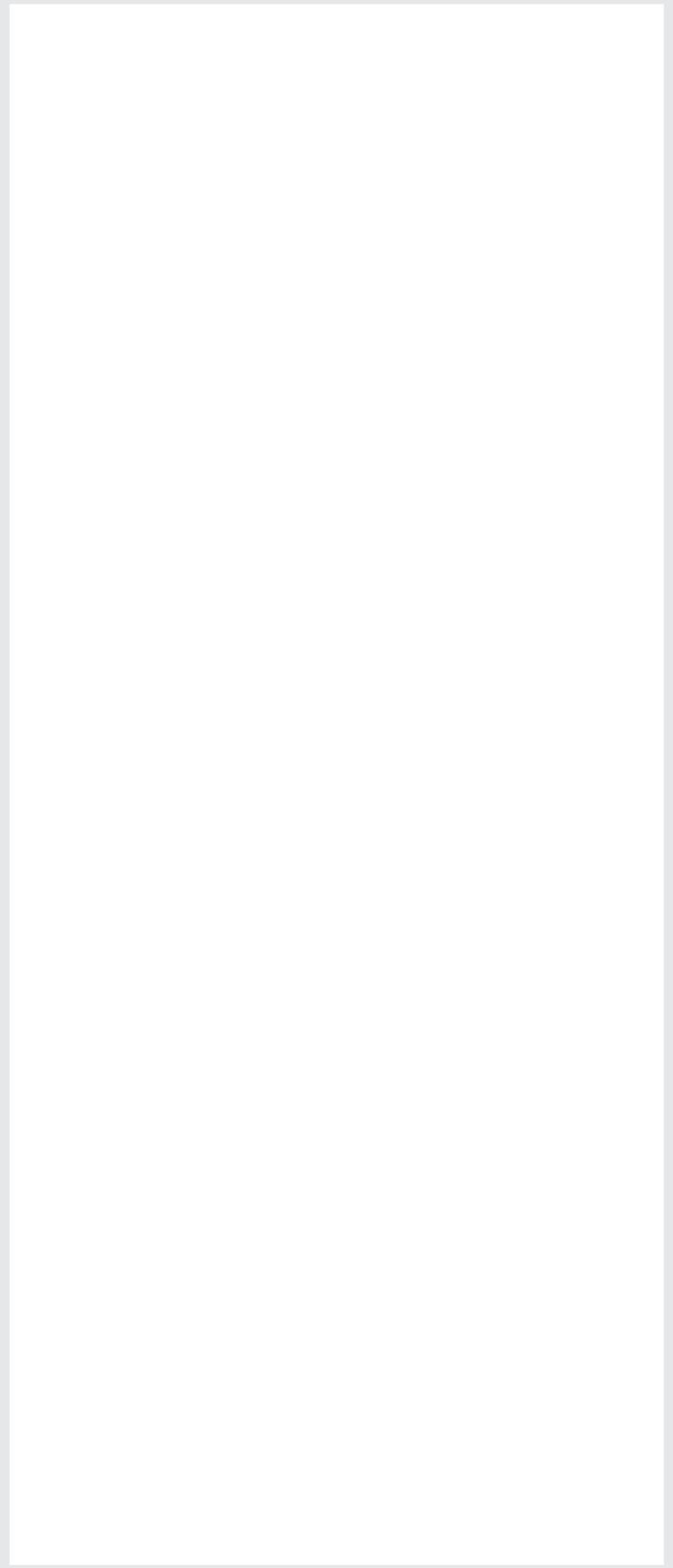
The Outside View *(optional)*

For the Author: Why is the character interesting?

Sum up the character in a line or two
Most important thing to know about the character
How the character differs from similar characters
Why the character is worth writing about
How character is memorable (a memorable character is strong in some way—saint, sinner, or both)

Responses: How will people react to character?

Your reaction to the character, and why
How you believe others will react, and why

Emotions *(optional)*

Amusement ▶ Joy ▶ Ecstasy

Affection ▶ Love ▶ Passion

Acceptance ▶ Pride ▶ Adoration

Passivity ▶ Resignation ▶ Submission

Apprehension ▶ Fear ▶ Terror

Wariness ▶ Respect ▶ Awe

Distraction ▶ Surprise ▶ Amazement

Disappoint. ▶ Resentment ▶ Frustration

Pensiveness ▶ Sadness ▶ Grief

Wistfulness ▶ Regret ▶ Remorse

Boredom ▶ Disgust ▶ Loathing

Dislike ▶ Contempt ▶ Hate

Annoyance ▶ Anger ▶ Rage

Assertive. ▶ Determination ▶ Aggression

Patience ▶ Anticipation ▶ Vigilance

Optimism ▶ Compassion ▶ Exuberance

Describe briefly how the character expresses the listed moods. Each group of three terms represents different intensities, from least to greatest, of what is basically the same emotion. This system is based in large part on Robert Plutchik's solidogram of emotional spectrum classification.