

The Ultimate Character Development Worksheet



Design Unforgettable Characters

Can there really be a character development worksheet that does it all?

A guide that helps you design complex characters that are both relatable and unique? A fillable PDF that allows you to envision your character as a singular being while also shaping the essential connection between who they are and the story they're in?

Why, yes. It is possible. In fact, you've just found it.

This character development worksheet has everything you need to flesh out your characters. But if you could use some more detailed guidance, check out the companion article [at this link](#).



First Impressions

Let's nail down your initial ideas about who this person (or creature) is.

Name

Age:

Location:

Time:

Archetype* or Personality Type:

**For inspiration, check out Dabble's [comprehensive guide to character archetypes](#).*

General Personality Notes

Record any ideas you already have about who this character is.

Build Your Character's Backstory

How did your character come to be who they are by the time your reader meets them?

Upbringing

Include details of their upbringing such as setting, income, family dynamics, culture, values, etc.

Family Relationships

Which family relationships had a significant influence on your character?

Friendships

Describe your character's most significant friendships.

Adversaries

Who looms in your character's memory as a nemesis or villain?

The Ghost

What single disastrous event changed your character forever?

The Lie

What flawed philosophy does your character now live by because of the Ghost?

Get Psychological

Dig into your character's heart and mind to understand the role they play in your story's conflict.

Motivation

What powerful, primitive fear or desire drives your character?

The Want

What does your character wish to achieve in life? It should be something that would be motivated by the Motivation. (Go figure.)

The Need

What does your character actually need?

Fear

If you haven't already covered this in Motivation, what is your character's greatest fear?

Flaw

What is your character's greatest flaw?

Value System

This could be religious doctrine, personal philosophy, cultural norms, etc.

Bring the Creature fo Life

Turn this mess of emotions into a flesh and blood being.

Physical Description

Phobias

Pet Peeves

Insecurities

Key Relationships

Empty text area for Key Relationships.

Quirks

Empty text area for Quirks.

Contradictions

Empty text area for Contradictions.

Habits

Empty text area for Habits.

Job

Empty light blue box for Job details.

Hobbies

Empty light blue box for Hobbies details.

Voice

Empty light blue box for Voice details.

Handling Emotions

Large empty light blue box for Handling Emotions details.

Further Resources

Ready to go really deep on character development? Check out these articles from DabbleU.

- [How to Create Characters Your Readers Simp For](#)
- [How to Write Compelling Characters From the Inside Out](#)
- [How to Write a Good Villain: Full Recipe](#)
- [A Giant Pile of Character Ideas to Jump-Start Your Brain](#)
- [Character Development Questions That Aren't About Eye Color](#)
- [20 Original Character Questions \(This Might Get Weird\)](#)
- [101 Character Goals That Don't Involve Anyone's Dead Wife](#)
- [Character Flaws—The Traits You Totally Don't See in Yourself](#)
- [Type of Character Motivation—What Gets Them Out of Bed?](#)
- [Why Does Character Motivation Matter if the Plot Slaps?](#)