

Do you Take Your Characters out to Dinner Before Sleeping With Them?

A workshop designed to help you stop and consider who your character actually is and what makes him unique.

Focus will be on the Main Character (MC).

List your MCs top Physical Traits

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

List the top Character Traits

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Questions to ask:

- Where did your MC come from?
- What internal/external struggles does he face? Is this daily? Every minute? Mental? Physical?
- Who has influence on him? This could be internal, imagined, covert, etc.
- What is his home life like? As a child/teen/adult?
- Who is he? Spiritually? Politically?
- How does he fit in the world? Or is he a misfit? Awkward? Ask yourself why.

Write down what your MC is trying to accomplish/achieve/get in your story. Be as specific as possible. What does the MC WANT? What is his goal or aspiration?

As an author, what OBSTACLES have you put in your MCs way? This is the way you create tension and give the character some depth. Very often the MC creates their own obstacles through their ignorance, poor choices, or biases. Make a list of your MCs likes and dislikes.

FIVE LIKES

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

FIVE DISLIKES

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

List and describe the MC's. Consider the effect that they have on him and others.

- Phobias/Fears _____
- Fetishes _____
- Quirks _____
- Temptations _____
- Strengths _____
- Weakness _____

How does your MC make a decision? Enter the grocery store: _____

Now take your MC to dinner. Watch and study his every movement—the way he talks to the server, his body language, where is he? McDonald's, a city cafe, or fine dining? Take note of all his mannerisms. How are they unique? Different? Weird? What is the mode of transportation? Payment?

What makes the MC tick? Ask him. What's on his phone? What sites does he frequent? Does he see his family? Allergies? Ask him more.

You're the therapist and can ask any question you like. Make sure you delve into what the MC is thinking of your performance as well. What questions will you ask?

Now feel free to tuck into a nice warm bed with your MC. Close your eyes and imagine him in your mind. Pay attention to movement, habit, quirk... Listen to the breathing. Are they a bed hog? Does he snore? Talk in his sleep?

Now just relax and picture him going about his first tasks in your story. Watch, observe, and learn.

I hope you enjoyed the class.

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