

Exercises on Character:

- 1) What does your character WANT? (One word, or a VERY short phrase. Nothing complicated. What does your character want IN THIS STORY?)

What are his/her motives for wanting this?

Where in the story is it made clear to the reader?

HOW is this information made clear to the reader? (Dialog? Actions? Interior thinking?)

What or who stands in the way of the character achieving this?

What does that desire set in motion?

2) Name 10 things that you character carrying in his or her pockets/bag/backpack.

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

3) What is your character wearing? (describe outfit in full)

4) Finish this sentence:

(name of character) is the kind of person who

NOW: change one of the following:

Age

Gender

Race/ethnicity

Nationality

What do you know about your character?

Name

Nickname

Sex

Age

Looks

Education

Vocation/occupation

Status and money

Marital status

Family/ethnicity

Diction/accent

Relationships

Places (home, office, car)

Possessions

Recreation/hobbies

Obsessions

Beliefs

Politics

Sexual history

Ambition

Religion

Superstitions

Fears

Attitudes

Character flaws

Pets

Favorite books/music/movies

Journal entries

Correspondence

Food preferences

Astrological sign

Talents

(other—anything else you can think of)

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21W.755 / 21W.757 Writing and Reading Short Stories
Spring 2012

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