

## Character Profile

**When you get an idea for a short [story](#) or a novel you probably get the basic idea of the characters with it. But in order to build believable characters you need more than just a basic idea of them. You need to really them. The easiest way to flesh out a character is with a character profile, so get out a blank sheet of paper and follow the sample profile below.**

**NAME:** Put your characters full name – first, last, and any nicknames that he goes by. Make sure the name creates the right mental image of your character; a Bill causes a completely different image than a Byron.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Write a description of your character's life; past and present. Where was he born, how was his family life – has his past affected him in any way? What does he do now? Who are his friends and where does he live? Don't make it too long – a paragraph will do.

**AGE:** If you don't know the exact age of your character then you can put it's approximation, such as late thirties, mid-twenties etc.

**HEIGHT:** How tall is your character?

**WEIGHT:** You probably won't know your character's exact weight, but I'm sure you can guess its approximate one. Is he really light – or a little more weighty?

**BODY TYPE:** Is he wiry and agile, or does he work out and his body is the proof? Remember that thin and skinny can bring up to different images – and maybe he's small-boned but sturdy

**FACE TYPE:** Is your character baby faced, or does he have a sharp, chiseled bone structure?

**COMPLEXION:** Is she ivory white or does she have more of a [cream](#) and coffee color?

**EYES:** Be specific about the color. Ice blue creates a different character than [sky blue](#). And what is the look in the eyes – is it hard? Nervous? Or does it have a twinkle?

**HAIR:** Put not only the color, but also the style. Is it long and curly – short and spike – or maybe it's died blue and shaved into a Mohawk. Again, make the color specific. Instead of brown hair, put red-brown, chestnut brown, or maybe it's actually the color of dried mud

**CLOTHING STYLE:** What type of clothing does he usually wear? Is he preppy, or more relaxed? Maybe he's a teenager that always wears [sports jerseys](#).

**SPEAKING STYLE:** Is he short and to the point? Or is he long winded?

**GENERAL Demeanor:** This is how your character generally acts and comes across to other people. Some people are just generally easy-going, taking life as it comes...while others are uptight and always looking for a fight.

**CAREER:** What does she do for a living?

**PREJUDICES:** Everyone has some, even fictional characters. Does she hate slow drivers...or maybe he's an intellectual and his prejudice is against anyone who hasn't read all of Shakespeare's works - plays and poems

**BEST QUALITIES:** List three or four of you characters best qualities

**WORST QUALITIES:** Even the "good guy" has a few faults. What are you character's?

**WEAKNESSES:** What is the main weakness in your character's [make-up](#)? What is his "Achilles heel"? Is it that he's not real smart...or maybe he has trouble getting along with other people.

**HOBBIES:** When he's not being thrashed about in your plot, what doe she like to do?

**TALENTS:** Is she an expert artist? Or cook?

**Make a profile for a character of your own creation. Think of information for each of these categories, and write them down on a sheet of paper using complete sentences. Use descriptive vocabulary.**