

Creating a Character

Think about someone in your family you'd like to tell a story about ... or a friend ...

Make sure it is a person you know well. (It could even be yourself ... but don't tell anyone.)

- Write down their name.
- When and where were they born? What position in the family?
- Where do (or where did) they live? i.e. at the time of the story.
- What kind of work did they do?
- What was their family situation? i.e. married, divorced, etc.
- What three words best describe their personality?
- What religious or spiritual beliefs do they hold?
- What is their ethnicity?
- What about their health? Is it good or bad?
- How do they get around? – car, bus, foot?
- What kind of things do they do for leisure and pleasure?
- What would you find inside your character's fridge?
- What would be hanging in their wardrobe?
- What do they want to get or to do?
- What are they willing to do to achieve this?
- What drives them? (What's their motivation?)

This is what you need to know, not necessarily what you need to share with your reader. Now write a paragraph introducing that person within their story, so as to interest and intrigue the reader. Don't use everything, remember. Use what works for the purpose of putting your character onstage.

Now reduce your paragraph to a single sentence that lets you know the character straight away.