

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

# DESIGNING CHARACTERS

One of the first jobs an author has is to create the main characters in the story including the protagonist, antagonist, and main side characters. Use this worksheet to help build out your characters on the next page.

## Character Roles

Protagonist or "Hero"  
 Antagonist or "Villain"  
 Side-Kick Friend  
 Minions to Antagonist  
 Mentor or Guide  
 Bully

## Description

Describe your character in detail like you were doing a police line-up. Height, eye-color, hair style, build, scars, limps, any distinguishing features. Make them memorable.

## Backstory

Even if it's not part of the main story, try to write a short backstory about your main characters so you know who they are deep down.

## Character Goals

What does your character want and why?  
 What motivates them to take action?  
 When things get hard, why don't they give up?

## Personal Traits

Are they serious or funny?  
 Moody or cheerful?  
 Easy to anger or annoyingly happy?  
 Know-it-all or slacker?  
 Carry hidden grief?  
 Have a dark secret?  
 Older and wiser?

What hidden talents or special skills do your characters have?  
 Surprise the reader with a twist.

## Special Skills

Vary the characters so they play off each other. If the main character is super smart maybe the side-kick is more bumbling.

## Foils

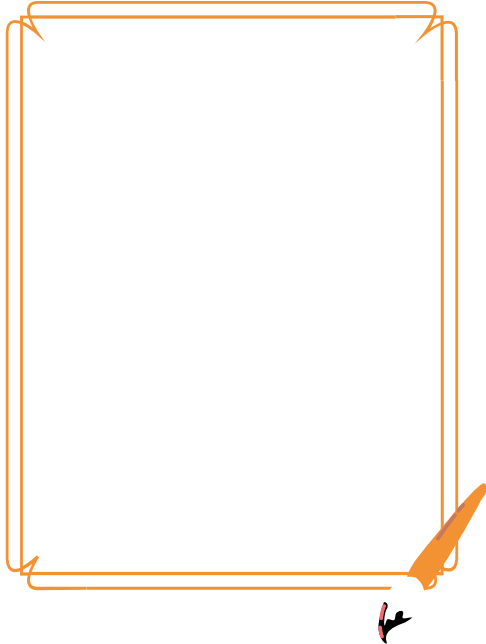
Be sure to make your characters feel real by making them multi-dimensional- i.e. the hero is not always heroic in every thought and deed and the villain has redeeming qualities that help us understand why they're doing what they're doing. Flawed characters are the most interesting!

# CHARACTER WORKSHEETS

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ROLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

In the box, paste or draw a picture of the character.



**Write a Brief Backstory about your Character:**

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**What are their goals? What do they want?**

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**Describe your character in detail:**

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**Describe what they're like on the inside.**

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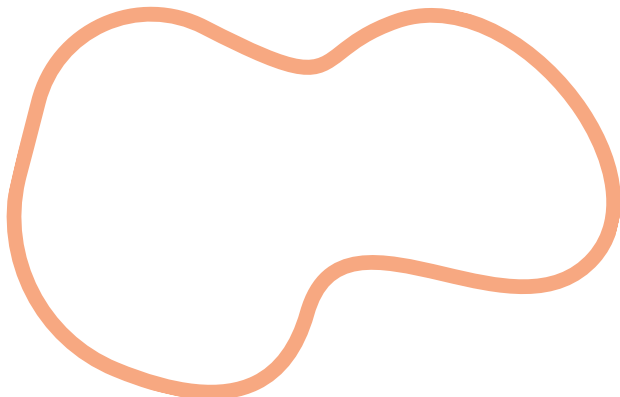
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**Name one thing about this character that is unique or most memorable.**



**Strengths? Special Skills? Flaws? Weaknesses?**

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