

Character Biography Interview Questions

These questions are for you, the author of the book, to use when getting to know your characters. Not all of these will apply to your story, as I've made them generalized, but many will really help you flesh out the character and their motivations.

Pretend you're sitting in a room with them. Ask the question, then take the role of the character and answer. You may need to skip and come back to some questions.

Background

Where were you born?

Did you go to school? If so, where and when?

Tell me about your friends and family.

Describe yourself to me.

Personality

What do you like about yourself?

What don't you like about yourself?

What do you think is the most important measure of someone's character?

Is there anything about yourself that you want to change? What is it?

What are you willing to do to be able to enact that change?

What do you truly want in life?

Do you trust others? Why or why not?

How well would you say you know yourself?

A friend describes your personality. How are they right? How are they wrong?

In what situation is your self-esteem at risk?

How has your life affected your personality?

What is the first thing you notice when stepping into a room?

How do you see the world?

How do you learn best? By doing? By watching? By listening? By reading instructions?

What do you admire in others?

Action

What frightens you?

When are you brave?

What do you need to overcome?

What goals have you set for yourself?

What in the outside world is preventing you from achieving your goals?

What in yourself is preventing you from achieving your goals?

What must happen for you to overcome this?

What skills are you proud of?

What skills do you want to improve?

Connection

How well do your friends know you? (If you don't have friends, how well do your acquaintances know you?)

How are you different with family than friends?

Are you attracted to anyone? Who, and why?

What is your initial reaction to a stranger?

What is your initial reaction to someone who is different?

Do you want others to like you? Why or why not?

What do you do to get others to like/dislike/remain indifferent to you?

Do you try to charm, deceive, or intimidate people you meet?

How are you with rivals? Who are your rivals?

How are you with enemies? Who are your enemies?

How do you decide when you can trust someone?

Who are you closest to? Why?

See the blog for more writing tips

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