

CHARACTER
CREATOR

writing template



LAUREN LAYNE

a note from Lauren Layne



Hi there! I'm so thrilled you're investing in your writing career with my Character Creator template. If we haven't met yet, I'm the *New York Times* bestselling author of romantic comedies.

Writing is my day job *and* my day dream. And, I'll be honest. Whenever starting a new project, I am dying to jump right in and start storytelling! However, after 30+ books, I've finally learned that my strongest stories develop when I have a good sense of my characters before I type Chapter One. Not to mention, knowing all of the characters' details before I get started results in a lot fewer inconsistencies during revisions!

how to use this workbook

First, and most importantly, please be sure to save this file somewhere on your computer, as the download link from the Lauren Layne Shop expires within 24 hours!

When you're ready to start working, grab your favorite pen or pencil, and print out the workbook pages beginning on page five.

This workbook was specifically designed as a deep-dive on your primary characters, but we also recommend filling out page 6 for your secondary characters!

Once completed, keep the worksheets handy as you get started writing. I recommend hole-punching the template and keeping in a 3-ring binder.

This template was specifically designed by the Lauren Layne team to provide enough room to write without using more paper than necessary. We encourage you to use the back of the paper if you need more room for a particular prompt!

Don't have access to a printer? You can also fill out this template electronically using a tablet, stylus (such as Apple Pencil) and compatible software.

Lastly, these pages are meant to serve as a general guide. Everyone's muse works a little bit differently, so there are additional blank pages at the end for miscellaneous ideas and thoughts!

tips on character building



Be as specific possible when developing the nuances of your character. Don't just say she loves coffee. If she *really* loves coffee, she'd likely be passionate about the details of her coffee! Does she love soy mochas? Extra sprinkles? A dark Italian roast made in a copper French press? Does she use the same Keruig flavor every morning? The more specific your details, the more your character will become to the reader.

Keep in mind that what your character thinks he wants may not be what he *needs*. Does he seek the comfort of stability, but secretly crave the thrill of adventure? Does he prefer to be left alone, only to realize that spending time with a certain someone brings out his best self? Tension between your character's wants and needs can help create page-turning conflict.

Figure out your main character's "worst case scenario" before you start writing the book. What is the worst thing that can happen to each character? Is she a workaholic terrified of losing her job? Is he trying to protect himself from rejection? In order to continually up the stakes for your characters, you must know how your character defines the stakes.

character name

ROLE IN STORY
(hero, heroine, hero's best friend, etc)

fast facts

character name (cont)

AGE

EYES

HAIR

GENERAL
APPEARANCE

CAREER / SCHOOL

IMPORTANT
RELATIONSHIPS

BIRTHDAY

PARENTS

SIBLINGS

FAVORITES

PET PEEVES

PERSONAL STYLE

personality

character name (cont)

WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS THIS CHARACTER?

friendly? private? jaded? quirky?

HOW DOES THIS CHARACTER SEE HER / HIMSELF?

HOW DO OTHERS SEE THIS CHARACTER?

is he aware of how he or she is perceived? does he or she care?

HOW DOES HE OR SHE NEED TO GROW?

Deep Dive

character name (cont)

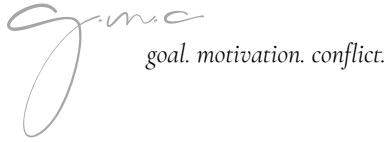
WHAT IS THIS CHARACTER'S VISION OF HIS/HER PERFECT LIFE AT THE START OF THE STORY?

HOW NEAR/FAR FROM THIS PERFECT LIFE IS HE OR SHE?

ARE THE DEEPEST NEEDS OF THIS CHARACTER DIFFERENT FROM HIS/HER WANTS?

for example, does the heroine think she wants quiet stability with the boy next door, only to realize that it's the mysterious rebel who makes her feel most alive?

DOES HIS/HER VISION OF THE PERFECT LIFE CHANGE BY THE END OF THE STORY?



WHAT DOES THE CHARACTER WANT TO ACHIEVE IN THIS STORY?

a promotion at work? to defeat an enemy? remodel her house? win back an ex?

WHAT IS DRIVING THIS CHARACTER'S GOAL?

a need to prove herself? to save face against a nemesis? to create a better life than she had growing up?

WHAT IS PREVENTING HIM/HER FROM ACHIEVING HIS/HER GOAL?

what is stopping him/her from getting what she wants by chapter 3?

WHAT WOULD YOUR CHARACTER WRITE IN HIS TWITTER OR
INSTAGRAM BIO?

WHAT IS SOMETHING UNEXPECTED ABOUT YOUR CHARACTER?
does she like only eat scrambled eggs with salsa verde? does he know how to knit?

WHAT IS THIS CHARACTER'S WORST CASE SCENARIO?
dying alone? losing all her money? turning out like her mother? letting someone down?

misa

your space to write down any extra notes on this character