

# Creating a Character

Get to know your character before you put him/her in the story. The more you know about your character, the stronger and more developed he/she will be. You will have a better idea of how he/she will interact with others and how he/she will react to the setting and situations (Setting + Character = Plot).

Take some time to answer questions about your character. In the end, you do not have to include all of the information you learn about your character in your story.

## **What is your character's name?**

- The name can be symbolic or simply one that you like.

## **How old is your character?**

## **What does he/she look like?**

- Height, weight, skin tone, hair and eye color, etc.
- How does he/she dress?

## **What was your character's childhood like?**

- Where was he/she born?
- How many siblings does he/she have?
- Who raised him/her and what were they like?
- What is his/her belief system (religion, morals)?
- How much schooling has he/she had?

## **What is your character's personality like?**

- Is he/she an optimist or a pessimist?
- What does he/she enjoy doing (hobbies, interests)?
- What are his/her goals in life?
- How many friends does he/she have, and who are they?
- What do others think of him/her?

## **What are some of your character's idiosyncrasies?**

- What is your character's most cherished possession?
- What are his/her revealing gestures?
- What is his/her favorite saying or catch phrase?
- What are his/her phobias?

## **How does your character react to stress?**

- If his/her car keys are lost?
- If there is a pop quiz in math for which he/she is unprepared?
- If a family member or friend dies?

## **Is your character based on a real person, or is he/she a composite of several real people?**

- What similarities and differences are there?
- What else makes him/her unique?

A strong character is one that is both believable (you provide good descriptions) and well-developed (your character changes over the course of the story).