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The Ultimate Character Profile Template

Part 1 — The Outer Layer

Definition: How your character looks, sounds, and moves.

Similar to: An offender profile.

1.1. THE BASICS

Name _____

Age _____

Place of birth _____

Current location _____

Nationality _____

Education _____

Occupation _____

Income _____

1.2. PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Height

Eye color

Hair color

Build

Distinguishing features *(tattoos, scars, birthmarks, etc.)*:

Preferred outfit?

Glasses?

Accessories *(cane, pipe, necklace, etc.)*:

Grooming:

☐ Disheveled   ☐ Smart, very put together   ☐ Untidy but clean

☐ Other? If so, explain:

Distinguishing "tics" and mannerisms:

Health? Do they suffer from chronic illnesses?

Handwriting *(sloppy, neat, careful, unintelligible, etc.)*:

Gait:

☐ Confident, powerful strides ☐ Lazy stroll ☐ Fast, walks at a clip

☐ Distracted, eyes on the ground ☐ Other? If so, explain:

1.3. SPEECH AND COMMUNICATION

Style of speech *(elevated, educated, peppered with slang, etc.)*:

Tempo of speech (*rapid, slow, measured, drawl, etc.*):

Do they have an accent?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Pitch *(melodic, gravelly, deep, etc.)*:

Posture:

- ☐ Stiff, military
- ☐ 'Turtle', tired
- ☐ Slouching
- ☐ Other? If so, explain:
- ☐ Casual and relaxed

Gesturing:

- ☐ Only when agitated or eager
- ☐ Compulsive "hand-talker"
- ☐ Other? If so, explain:
- ☐ Doesn't gesture
- ☐ Controlled, only to make a point

Level of eye contact *(direct, shifty, etc.)*:

Speech impediments:

Distinguishing speech "tics":

Preferred curse word:

Catchphrases:

Laughter? What do they tend to find funny?

_____

_____

Describe their smile:

_____

Emotive? Do they wear their emotions on their sleeve? How easily can others read them?

_____

_____
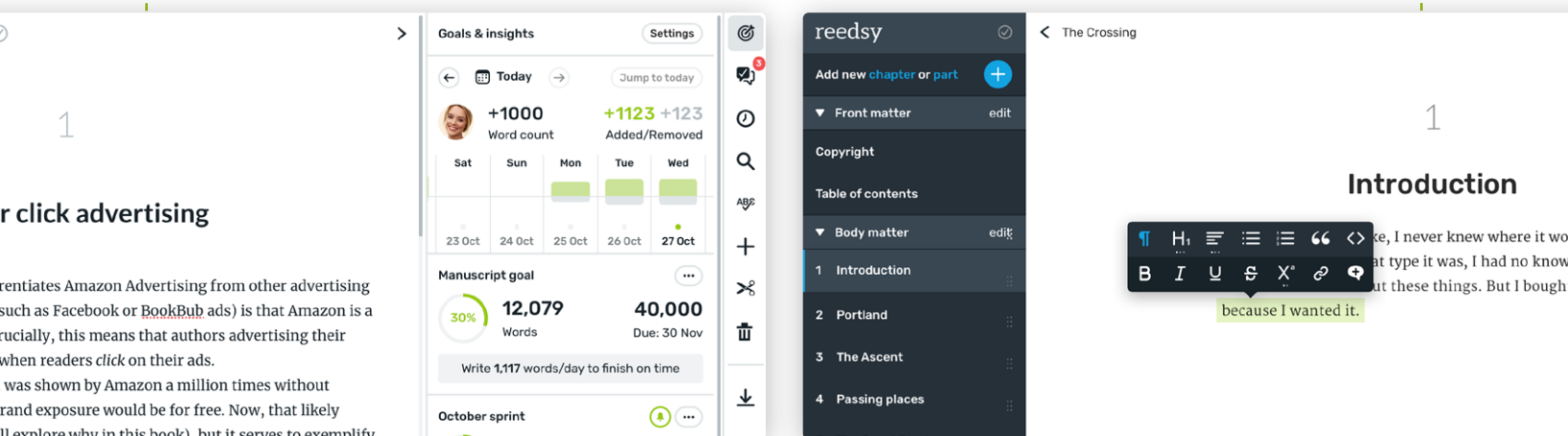
They have a resting _____face.

☐ Angel   ☐ Side-eye   ☐ Neutral

☐ Confused   ☐ Other? If so, explain:

--------------------------------- Ready to start writing? ---------------------------------

Use the writing app made for writers.

Try Reedsy Book Editor

You can set your daily writing goals, track your progress,

and much more — **all for free**.

Part 2 – The Flesh

Definition: How your character is a product of their environment.

Similar to: The character bio and backstory.

2.1. THE PAST

Hometown:

Type of childhood (*sheltered, neglected, etc.*):

Education:

→ **Were they involved in organizations and clubs at school:**

☐ Sports   ☐ Debate   ☐ Gay/Straight Alliance

☐ Model UN   ☐ Drama

☐ Other? If so, explain:

→ **At graduation, they were named Most Likely to _____ in the yearbook.**

Jobs (if applicable)? What would their résumé look like?

→ Dream job as a child? Why?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Who were their role models growing up? Describe them:

_____

_____

_____

Greatest regret:

_____

_____

_____

Hobbies growing up:

_____

_____

_____

Favourite place to be as a child?

_____

_____

If they could change one thing from their past, what would it be? Why?

_____

_____

_____

Major turning points or "life beats" in childhood:

_____

_____

_____

→ **Earliest memory:**

_____

_____

→ **Saddest memory:**

_____

_____

→ **Happiest memory:**

_____

_____

→ **Clearest memory:**

_____

_____

What are their skeletons in the closet?

_____

_____

Three adjectives to describe them as a child?

_____

_____

What advice would they give to their younger self?

_____

_____

Criminal record:

_____

_____

2.2. FAMILY

Father

Age (if living) _____   Occupation _____

Briefly describe their relationship with your character:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Mother

Age (if living) _____   Occupation _____

Briefly describe their relationship with your character:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Siblings

How many? _____

What are their names? Ages? _____

Briefly describe their relationship(s) with your character:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Children *(if applicable)*

How many? _____

What are their names? Ages? _____

Briefly describe their relationship(s) with your character:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Extended family

Grandparents _____

Uncles and aunts _____

Cousins _____

Other _____

Family's economic status:

_____

How often do they see their family in a year?

_____

2.3. EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

Closest friends? Describe them:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Other significant friends:

_____

_____

_____

Enemies? Describe them:

_____

_____

_____

_____

How are they perceived by...

→ **...strangers in the street?**

_____

_____

_____

→ **...acquaintances at a work function?**

_____

_____

_____

→ **...colleagues in the office?**

_____

_____

_____

→ **...authority figures?**

_____

_____

_____

→ **...friends in their friend circles?**

_____

_____

_____

→ **...children?**

_____

_____

_____

→ **...the opposite sex?**

_____

_____

_____

→ **…extended family?**

What social media platforms are they on?

☐ Twitter ☐ Facebook ☐ Reddit

☐ Instagram ☐ Snapchat ☐ Tumblr

☐ Other? If so, explain:

How would they use their social media platforms?

How would they fill out an online dating profile for themselves?

What's their role in a group dynamic?

☐ Leader ☐ Joker ☐ Parent

☐ Hype man ☐ Mooch

☐ Other? If so, explain:

Who do they depend on for...

→ **...practical advice?**

_____

_____

_____

→ **...mentoring?**

_____

_____

_____

→ **...a wingman?**

_____

_____

_____

→ **...emotional support?**

_____

_____

_____

→ **...moral support?**

_____

_____

_____

What do they want from a relationship?

_____

_____

_____

Who would be their ideal partner?

_____

_____

_____

Do they have a significant other? Describe them:

How many people would attend their funeral?

QUIZ – Tell us about your book and
WE'LL GIVE YOU A WRITING PLAYLIST!

Take the quiz

Part 3 – The Core

Definition: How your character is deep down.

Similar to: A psych test.

3.1. PSYCHOLOGY

What do they do on rainy days?

Are they:

☐ Street-smart   ☐ Book-smart   ☐ Optimist
☐ Pessimist   ☐ Introvert   ☐ Extrovert

What is their favorite sound?

Favorite place in the world?

_____

_____

What secrets do they keep? What are they most afraid of people finding out?

_____

_____

_____

_____

What do they want the most?

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Biggest flaw:

_____

_____

Biggest strength:

_____

_____

Biggest fear:

What is their biggest accomplishment?

What is their idea of perfect happiness?

Do they want to be remembered? What for?

Favorite quote:

How do they approach...

→ **...power?**

→ **...ambition?**

→ ...love?

_____

_____

_____

→ ...change?

_____

_____

_____

PRO TIP | Lost the plot for your characters? We present:
REEDSY'S PLOT GENERATOR   **Generate a plot**

What is the one object or possession that they would rescue from their burning home?

_____

_____

What (or who) bores them?

_____

_____

What makes them angry?

_____

_____

What do they look for in a person?

How strong is their moral compass? When, specifically, are they willing to compromise their morals?

List the last 10 books that they read:

Which fictional world would they most wish to visit?

If they didn't have to sleep, what would they do with extra time?

What are their pet peeves?

If they won the lottery, what would they do?

Describe the character's bucket list at the ages of:

15 _____

20 _____

30 _____

40 _____

List the 10 songs that would occupy their All-Time Most Played playlist on Spotify:

_____

_____

_____

What is the best compliment that someone ever paid them?

_____

In an elevator, do they push the elevator button more than once?

☐ Yes

☐ No

What would they want their tombstone to say?

_____

3.2. THE PRESENT AND FUTURE

Story goal:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Story motivation:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Congratulations on your brand-new character!
Now it's time to write their story.

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