

Character Profile

The template is divided into four blocks. For supporting characters, the blocks “Basics” and “Drive” are usually enough.

Block 1: Basics

Name

Full name, plus nicknames and who uses them.

Role

Protagonist, antagonist, supporting character, mentor, confidant, love interest.

Age

Exact or approximate. Important if the story spans years.

Occupation or position

What they do all day. It shapes their vocabulary, their hands, the way they see the world.

Background

Place, family, social class, as far as it matters for the story.

Appearance

Two or three features that actually appear in the text. Not a full physical description.

Block 2: Drive

Goal

What does the character want to achieve, protect or prevent in this story? Concrete and checkable.

Motivation

Why do they want it? The answer to the second “why.”

Conflict

Who or what stands in the way of the goal, outside and inside?

Flaw or false belief

What does the character wrongly believe or not know how to do, and why does that get in their way?

Stakes

What do they lose if they fail?

Block 3: Inner life and voice**Strengths**

What are they better at than others? At least one strength the plot will need.

Contradiction

A trait that doesn't fit the rest. Contradictions make characters believable.

Secret

What do they know that others don't, or what are they hiding?

Voice

How do they talk? Sentence length, favorite words, what they would never say.

Signature line

A line only this character would say this way.

Block 4: In the story

Relationships

The three to five most important connections to other characters, each with a word on the kind of relationship.

Arc

Where does the character stand at the beginning, where at the end? In one sentence.

Turning point

The moment their stance changes.

First appearance

The chapter or scene where they're introduced.

Open questions

What you don't know about the character yet. This field isn't a flaw; it's a to-do list.
