

# Best Practices for Writing Villains

*This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:*

[Your Guide to Writing a Convincing Villain](#)

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- The reader needs to understand the motivation of the villain.
- The villain should have moments of vulnerability that make him or her relatable (even if that's in the backstory).
- No villain should be all evil all the time. That makes for a flat character. Don't create a caricature.
- Give the villain characteristics that are desirable, too.
- Make the villain the hero of his own story.
- Use the villain to develop your protagonist.
- Use abstract villains sparingly. Try to assign a person to an antagonistic force.
- Make the villain a foil of the protagonist. He or she should be opposite to bring out characteristics in your protagonist.
- Give the villain a moral code.
- Allow the villain to have small wins through your novel to increase tension.
- Create a backstory for your villain.
- Create an entire arc for your villain. He or she should not just pop up when it's convenient for your story.
- Don't give the villain un-natural, overly eloquent language unless there's a good reason to do so.