

# Tips on How to Develop Each Character in Your Story

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

[5 Important Characters to Have in Every Story](#)

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## **Interview your characters**

Ask them questions to determine their background and how they'd uniquely respond in certain scenarios.

## **Create an arc for each main character**

Even if the character does not get what he or she wants (usually the antagonist is thwarted), it's important for the reader that you complete the story.

## **Base your characters on real people**

It's easier to create a rounded character if you're taking your cues from an actual person that you know.

## **Allow your main characters to move the story forward**

The story shouldn't move the characters. It's their decisions that dictate the plot.

## **Avoid stock, or stereotypical, characters**

Although characters play certain roles in your story, don't reduce them to cliches' (such as the femme fatale, the damsel in distress, or absent-minded professor).

## **Combine characters**

Don't be afraid to combine characters who play similar roles in your story. Not only is it less names for the reader to follow, you'll be less likely to create stereotypical characters.

## **Give the character something to be afraid of**

Even if you don't articulate the fears of your characters, you should know them. The inclusion of fear makes the character more vulnerable and relatable.

### **Choose the right name for your characters**

The character's name should symbolize something important about his or her personality.

### **Create a different voice for each character**

Each character should be and "sound" unique. Ideally, even without character ID tags, the reader should be able to identify who's speaking in the story.