



# NOT-SO-BASIC CHARACTER TEMPLATE

It's easy enough to figure out the fundamentals of a character's physical appearance, quirky traits, and background. But how do you develop a well-rounded, relatable character with realistic flaws and dynamic internal conflict? This template is here to help!

Okay... the basics are still important. Fill them out here before you get started.

# REALISTIC FLAWS

Flaws are some of the most important aspects to developing real, tangible characters your readers will relate and attach to—or hate, if that’s what you’re going for. The possibilities are endless! Flaws will significantly influence your character’s behavior, decisions, and interactions throughout the story. Choose at least 3 realistic character flaws. Here are a few flaws and examples of each to help you get started:

- **Stubbornness:** Refusing to accept help when clearly overwhelmed, leading to poor decisions or missed opportunities. Doesn’t back down from opinions or is closed-minded, leading to strained relationships.
- **Jealousy:** Constantly comparing themselves to others, causing tension in relationships and resentment toward friends or peers.
- **Impulsivity:** Making reckless, emotionally-driven decisions without considering the consequences, leading to frequent trouble or regret.
- **Pessimism:** Always expecting the worst, which demotivates both themselves and those around them, preventing them from taking risks.
- **Arrogance:** Believing they are always right, ignoring valuable advice or input from others, resulting in strained relationships or failure in difficult circumstances.
- **Procrastination:** Delaying important tasks until the last minute, which leads to rushed work, missed deadlines, or stress-induced mistakes that often affect those around them as well.
- **Overprotectiveness:** Smothering loved ones with concern, leading to resentment, stifled independence, or compromised trust.
- **Resentfulness:** Holding onto grudges, often obsessively, and letting past slights affect current relationships, leading to unnecessary conflict.
- **Naivety:** Trusting others or attaching too easily, often resulting in being taken advantage of or manipulated.
- **Insecurity:** Constantly doubting self-worth, causing them to seek validation in unhealthy ways or push people away due to fear of rejection. May lead to strained relationships and compromised trust.
- **Perfectionism:** Setting impossibly high standards for themselves and others, leading to long-term dissatisfaction and strained relationships.
- **Indecisiveness:** Struggling to make decisions, especially under pressure, leading to missed opportunities or frustrating those relying on them.
- **Apathy:** Showing little to no interest in important matters, causing others to perceive them as cold or uncaring, leading to isolation and strained relationships.

CHOSEN FLAWS:

# INTERNAL CONFLICT

Your characters need to be experiencing some sort of internal conflict in order for your readers to attach to them. Here are some questions to help you get started:

What is their deepest fear?

What is their biggest insecurity?

What internal struggle drives their actions?

What is their core desire?

What do they desperately want but can't have?

What unresolved trauma haunts them?

How do they cope with emotional pain?

What are they most ashamed of?

How do they see themselves versus how others see them?

What lies do they believe about themselves?

What moral dilemmas do they struggle with?

What are they willing to sacrifice?

How do their internal conflicts influence their relationships?

# RELATIONSHIPS

How your character interacts with the people in their life says a lot about them and what they may need to learn throughout the story. Here are some helpful character relationship considerations:

Closest Friend(s):

Enemies/Rivals:

Romantic Interests:

Mentors/Role Models:

Significant Others:

What do they want from their relationships?

What do they fear about their relationships?

How do they perceive love/attachment?

What boundaries do they set in relationships?

How do they react to betrayal?

Who is the most important person to this character and why?

Does your character have a "weakness" ? (a.k.a. someone they will go to extreme lengths to protect, someone they "aren't supposed to love," etc.)

# PLOT CONNECTION

Now it's time to figure out how your character is connected to the events in the story, and how they will change as the plot progresses.

What role do they play in the story?

What motivates their involvement in the plot?

What stakes are personal to them?

How does their internal conflict influence their decisions?

What is their character arc? (How do they change over the course of the story?)

What are their breaking points?

How do they grow by the end of the story?

# FUN STUFF (THE ESSENTIALS)

Here is where you can sort out all the fun stuff. These questions are designed to help motivate you to write this character's story, and make them feel more well-rounded and 3D.

What song describes them the most and why?

If your character was a season, what would it be and why? (Necessary)

What are their personality types? (MTBI, Enneagram, what type of bread they are, etc.)

What are 3 characters from other books, shows, or movies this character would hate and why?

3 characters from other books, shows, or movies this character might relate to and why:

Your character's favorite animal, color, song, food, smell, book, and why:

Okay fine, you can make a playlist for them:

● _____	● _____	● _____
● _____	● _____	● _____
● _____	● _____	● _____
● _____	● _____	● _____
● _____	● _____	● _____

# MISC. NOTES AND IDEAS

If this template inspired any other thoughts or ideas, jot them all down here! Don't be afraid to get messy and chaotic.

A large, empty rectangular frame with a light gray border, intended for taking notes or ideas. The frame is centered on the page and occupies most of the lower two-thirds of the document. It is currently empty, providing a space for the user to write down any thoughts or ideas that may come to mind.