

# STORY SCHOOL



CRAFTING  
COMPELLING  
CHARACTERS

Presented by  creators



# GET INTO CHARACTER

This workbook was designed to help illustrate the impact that specific character choices can have on the plot of a story. By exploring the backstory and internal dynamics of your characters, you can gain insights into their personal motivations and stakes, and their ability to navigate towards their goals and through their conflicts.

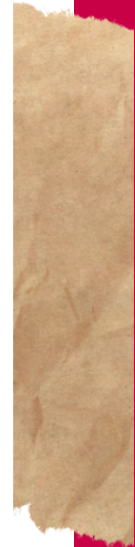
There are three levels to this worksheet. The first level consists of backstory-based questions, the second level consists of deeper internal questions, and the third level dives into how the backstory and internal answers can shape the plot of the story.

Answer all the questions in levels one and two in any order that feels natural before moving on to level three. Some of your answers might be very short, while others might be quite long. Also, some of the information generated by the exercise may be helpful to you as a writer, but may not be totally necessary for a reader.

# LEVEL 1: BACKSTORY

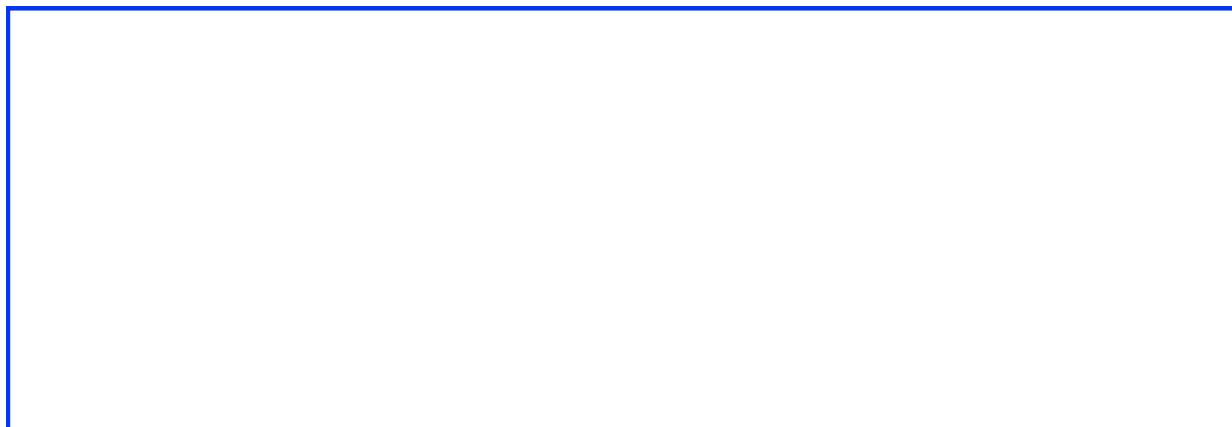
All the events that have happened in our lives have shaped the person we are today. The same can be said about a well-developed character. Formative events and experiences that happen before the start of your story can impact the actions and decisions your character makes in the story.

Use the next page to describe 3 memories that are important to your character and their understanding of their life. What happened to make your character the person they are today? Why are these memories formative? How did these experiences shape your character? Choose a balance of positive and negative memories to explore your character's hardships as well as their resilience and joy.

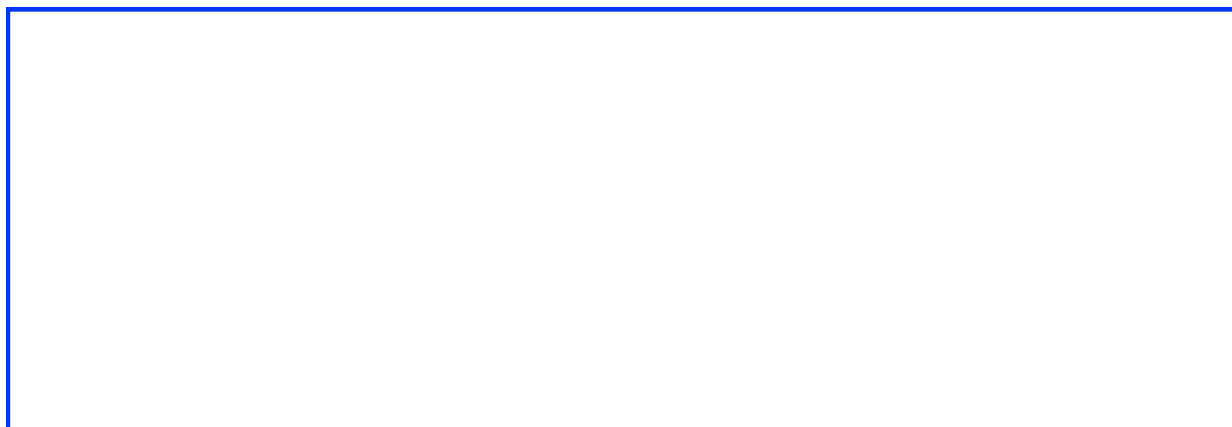


# LEVEL 1: BACKSTORY

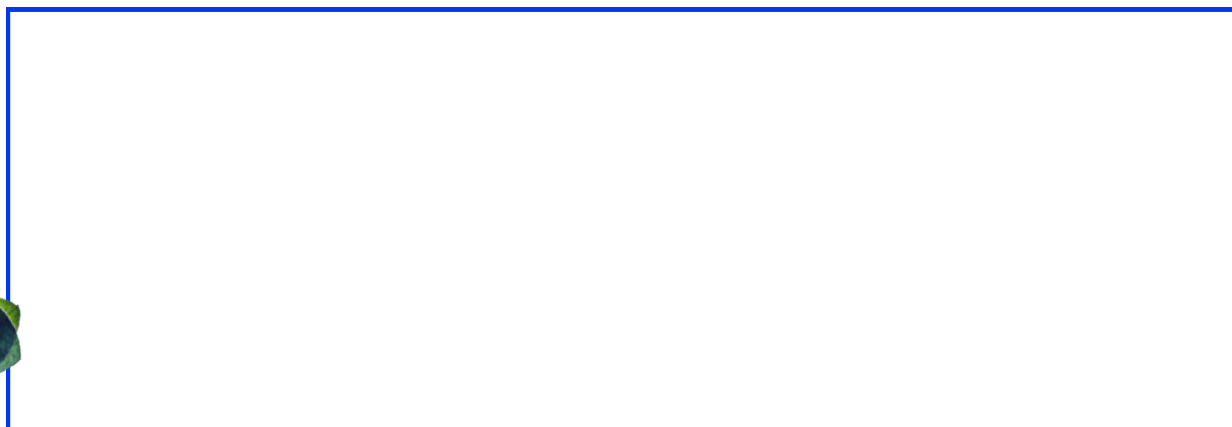
Memory 1:



Memory 2:



Memory 3:



# LEVEL 2: INTERNAL



What is their strongest vice?

What is their greatest virtue?

What makes them angry?

What makes them *really* angry?

What makes them laugh?

What is their secret? Does anyone else know about it?

# LEVEL 3: PLOT INTEGRATION



How do your character's memories influence their current goal or motivations?

How do your character's memories influence the conflicts they are trying to overcome?

How does your character's strongest vice hinder their progress or create conflicts within the story?

Are there any moments where your character's strongest vice becomes a helpful asset? Do they ever turn it into an advantage?



# LEVEL 3: PLOT INTEGRATION (CONT'D)

How does their greatest virtue contribute to their growth or aid them in overcoming conflicts?

Are there moments where your character relies too heavily on or overestimates their greatest virtue? Does it ever turn into a weakness?

How does your character's anger or irritations lead to critical conflicts or turning points in the story?

# LEVEL 3: PLOT INTEGRATION (CONT'D)

How does your character's sense of humour influence their relationships or the overall tone of the story?



How does your character's secret impact their choices, relationships, or the central conflict of the plot?

