

Three Levels Questionnaire

This worksheet was designed to help illustrate the impact that specific character choices can have on the plot of a story. By exploring the surface-level attributes and internal dynamics of your characters, you can gain invaluable insights into their personal motivations and stakes, as well as their ability to navigate towards their goals and through their conflicts. These questions were inspired by similar character questionnaires by [Fin Kennedy](#) and [Jennifer Tuckett](#).

There are three levels to this questionnaire. The first level consists of surface-level questions, the second level consists of deeper internal questions, and the third level dives into how the surface-level 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.

Level 1: Surface

What is your character's full name? Are they named after anyone?

Where did they grow up? Where do they live now?

Do they have any physical scars? If so, how did they get them?

Do they have a hobby?

What is their favourite season? What is their favourite month? Why?

Has anyone close to them died?

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 does your character's place of upbringing influence their current goals or motivations?

Does their physical scar(s) hold any symbolic meaning or significance to the plot? Does the scar(s) affect them day-to-day?

Does their hobby play a role in their own development or interactions with other characters?

Does their favourite season or month serve as a backdrop for a significant event or turning point in the story?

How does the death of someone close to your character affect their current relationships or choices? Has this impacted their motivations or stakes?

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

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

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

Does a situation arise that triggers your character's extreme anger, leading to unexpected consequences or developments?

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?

How does their secret tie into the overall themes or conflicts explored in the story?