

Name: _____

Here are some elements that writers consider when creating a character. They help readers feel something for a character and make connections to that character’s actions and experiences.

Think about how authors have used these elements to create characters you are familiar with as well as how you could use them to create a character of your own.

History	Where does your character come from? Think about his childhood and adolescence. What events shaped his personality? What was his family like?
Relationships	What kind of friends and family does she have? How does she relate to them? Is she very social or reclusive or somewhere in between?
Thoughts	What kind of inner voice does your character have? How does he think through his problems and dilemmas? In real life, we don’t have the benefit of knowing someone’s innermost thoughts, but a narrative allows us to do just that, which is a great advantage.
Communication Style	How does your character talk? Does she favour certain words or phrases that make her distinct and interesting? What about the sound of her voice? Much of our personality comes through our speech.
Ambition	What is his passion in life? What goal is he trying to accomplish in your story?
Obstacles	What personal weaknesses, problems, or circumstances must your character overcome throughout the story?
Appearance	What does she look like? This may be the least important ingredient to make your character come alive to the reader, but you should still know it in your own mind.
Flaws	Everyone has some personality trait that others might dislike. Is he too self-centred? Too competitive? Too lazy? Too easy-going? Too demanding of others?
Approachability	How easily can readers relate to your character? Does she have some traits that make her seem “just the same as us?”