



Character Interview

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When I'm struggling to know a character, it's often because there's a part of the character and his or her motivation that I don't understand yet. This chart forces me to go deeper. You'll notice, there is almost nothing on here about what the character looks like. That's the easy part. These questions are getting to character motivation. Why is your character who he or she is?

Name: _____

Adjective + Noun = Character: _____

Why? _____

Age: _____

Profession: _____

Character Archetype: _____

Enneagram Number: _____

Core Fear¹: _____

Core Desire: _____

Core Weakness: _____

Core Longing: _____

Childhood Message: _____

Message long to hear: _____

Wing: _____

General: _____

Struggling: _____

Blended: _____

Inspiring: _____

Vulnerability: _____

Manager: _____

Misaligned: _____

Aligned: _____

¹ You can find these in *Because of Us* starting on page 38 and page 144

Exiles: _____

Firefighters: _____

Managers: _____

I then follow this up by running through questions inspired by Susan May Warren's [The Story Equation](#)². I highly encourage you to put these together for robust, unique characters.

What Lie do you believe that drives you and shapes your spiritual beliefs? This can come straight from the Enneagram – or that can be a starting point for exploration.

What is your greatest fear? Again, this can come from the Enneagram.

Who are you? How would you identify yourself? We often forget that the labels we adopt for ourselves trump whatever labels others use.

What are you good at? What do you excel at? When do you hit flow?

When the going gets tough, what do you do? Where do you hide? How do you put yourself to sleep in a sense?

What truth will set you free? Once again, the Enneagram can help immensely.

Lastly, and this one is particularly hard for me, what makes your character happy? What is his or her happiest/favorite memory?

² [The Story Equation](#) by Susan May Warren is an excellent guide to deep characterization.