

## Writer S Guide To Character Traits

What's more important to a story: a gripping plot or compelling characters? Literary-minded novelists argue in favor of character-based novels while commercial novelists argue in favor of plot-based stories, but the truth of the matter is this: The best fiction is rich in both. Enter *Plot Versus Character*. This hands-on guide to creating a well-rounded novel embraces both of these crucial story components. You'll learn to:

- Create layered characters by considering personality traits, natural attributes, and backgrounds
- Develop your character's emotional journey and tie it to your plot's inciting incident
- Construct a three-act story structure that can complement and sustain your character arc
- Expose character backstory in a manner that accentuates plot points
- Seamlessly intertwine plot and character to create a compelling page-turner filled with characters to whom readers can't help but relate
- And much more

Filled with helpful examples and friendly instruction, *Plot Versus Character* takes the guesswork out of creating great fiction by giving you the tools you need to inject life into your characters and momentum into your plots.

**Enhance Your Fiction with the Power of an Active Setting!** Setting is one of the most underutilized and misunderstood elements of the writing craft. And when

writers do focus on setting, they often pull readers out of the narrative and jolt their attention from the action on the page. A Writer's Guide to Active Setting will show you how to create vivid, detailed settings that bring your story to life. You'll learn how to deepen character development, anchor readers to a specific time and place, reveal backstory without slowing things down, elevate action sequences, and more. Drawing upon examples from authors writing across a variety of genres, Mary Buckham will illustrate exactly how the proper use of setting can dramatically improve your story. You'll learn what's effective about each passage and how you can use those techniques to make your story shine. "Takes an all too often overlooked technique, and elevates it to a next-level game changer for powerful fiction." --Cathy Yardley, author of Rock Your Plot "A powerful combination of fresh insights, practical examples, and how-to advice on the often overlooked but critical element of setting...written in a quick-to-read and easy-to-understand style, and packed with useful application exercises." --Kelly L. Stone, author of Thinking Write: The Secret to Freeing Your Creative Mind "If you're a writer, then Mary Buckham's book is a must-have tool for your writer's toolkit. Creating settings that are rich and believable is not an easy task, but with this book, I found that each chapter gave me great tips that I could immediately implement in my manuscript." --Laurie G. Adams, author of Finding Atticus

Within the pages of a book exists a world drawn from a writer's deepest imaginings, one that has the ability to pull readers in on a visceral level. But the audience's fascination will only last if the writer can describe this vibrant realm and its inhabitants well. The setting achieves this by offering readers a unique sensory experience. So much more than stage dressing, the setting can build mood, convey meaning through symbolism, drive the plot by creating challenges that force the hero to fight for what he wants, and trigger his emotions to reveal his most intimate feelings, fears, and desires. Inside this volume you will find:

- A list of the sights, smells, tastes, textures, and sounds for over 100 settings revolving around school, home, and nature
- Possible sources of conflict for each location to help you brainstorm ways to naturally complicate matters for your characters
- Advice on the many effective ways to build mood, helping you steer both the character's and readers' emotions in every scene
- Information on how the setting directly influences the plot by acting as a tuning fork for what a character needs most and by testing his dedication to his goals
- A tutorial on figurative language and how different descriptive techniques can bring settings alive for readers while conveying a symbolic message or deeper meaning
- A review of the challenges that arise when writing description, as well as special considerations that apply specifically to rural and personal settings

The Rural

Setting Thesaurus takes “show-don’t-tell” to new heights. It offers writers a roadmap to creating fresh setting imagery that impacts the story on multiple levels and keeps readers engaged from the first page to the last.

From serial killers to business tycoons to politicians, *The Writer's Guide to Character Traits* profiles the mental, emotional, and physical qualities of dozens of different personality types. With this book's highly accessible format, writers can mix and match the traits of specific personality types to create original, complex characters. Unique personality styles and types are profiled, including psychopaths, cult members, overachievers, addicts, amnesia victims, social climbers, career criminals and philanthropists. In addition, this guide includes sections on the personality types of children, physical disorders that influence personality, and outlines of typical and atypical human development.

What will take your fiction from good to great? From decent to dazzling? From lackluster to blockbuster? Characters who "jump off the page." Of course plot matters. So does conflict, and scenes, and every other aspect of the fiction craft. But without unforgettable characters, your books will always be less than they could be. Don't let that happen. In *WRITING UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTERS* you'll learn:

- How to lay the foundation for a memorable character
- How to bond the reader with the main character from the start
- The super power of

unpredictability -The secrets of grit, wit, and moxie -How to bring your character to life on the page-How and when to reveal backstory -All about arcs and what they truly mean -The key to unforgettable villains-How to make minor characters memorable, too -How to create a great series character And more, PLUS the powerful exercises James Scott Bell has taught in his sold-out writing workshops. No more flat stories! Give your readers what will turn them into career-long fans-characters who jump off the page.

Create Realistic Character Expressions and Emotions!Most writers struggle with creating a captivating story. The fastest way to improve your writing is by the use of the "Deep Point-of-View" technique, which can transform any novel from mediocre storytelling into riveting prose. This manual will provide writers with the essential skills needed to significantly enhance their characterization and intensify emotions by eliminating filtering words that cause narrative distance. Plus, this unique guidebook includes hundreds of amazing ways to use "show don't tell" to submerge readers so deeply into any scene that they will experience the story along with the characters. Bestselling author, S. A. Soule also shares her expertise with writers on how to apply "showing" methods through powerful examples in action, along with the necessary tools to immediately deepen the reader's experience with vivid, sensory details.Are you ready to instantly take

your writing skills to the next level? Please scroll up and click the buy button now...

Originally published: Hollywood, CA: Lone Eagle Pub., c2000.

A fill-in book from the San Francisco Writers' Grotto, authors of the best-selling 642 Things series. Focus on a single aspect of the craft of writing with help from the San Francisco Writers' Grotto. Writing Character begins with an essay by author and educator Constance Hale, who offer pointers for observing and capturing human complexity. The rest of the book consists of prompts and space to write, providing opportunities for you to develop your own characters. Among other ideas, you'll be asked to create: a sketch of a famous person you admire a portrait of someone based on the items on his desk a positive take on someone you loathe a description of your mother's emotions as they are expressed by her eyes a scene involving a group of people, focusing exclusively on how they use their hands Perfectly sized to take to a café, on vacation, or on your morning commute, this book is designed for practicing your creative writing a little bit at a time. Special Features Paperback with textured cover stock, flaps, and a lay-flat binding Advice from a published writer, followed by fill-in prompts and space to write Part of a collection of single-subject writing prompt books by the San Francisco Writers' Grotto Check out the other books in this series: Writing Action,

### Writing Dialogue, and Writing Humor

Dialogue is often overlooked as a necessary and potent instrument in the novelist's repertoire. A novel can rise or fall on the strength of its dialogue. Superb dialogue can make a superb novel. F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote, "Action is character." George V. Higgins said, "Dialogue is character." They were both right, because dialogue is action. It comprises much, if not all, of the clarifying drama of any novel. How much physical action can there be in 300 pages, even in a crime novel or a thriller? And all conflict, even physical, begins as dialogue. Hough explains how dialogue can reveal a character's nature as well as his or her defining impulses and emotions. He says there must be tension in every colloquy in fiction, and shows the reader ways to achieve it. Hough illustrates his precepts with examples from his own work and from that of the best modern writers of dialogue, including Cormac McCarthy, Kent Haruf, Joan Didion, Annie Proulx, Lee Smith, Elmore Leonard, George V. Higgins, William Kennedy and Howard Frank Mosher. He cites early 20th century writers who refined and advanced dialogue as an art form: Ernest Hemingway, Ring Lardner, Dorothy Parker, and William Saroyan. Hough's novel *Seen the Glory: A Novel of the Battle of Gettysburg* was praised by Lee Smith as containing "the best dialogue of the period I have ever read." Hough on Dialogue will give writers and aspiring

writers a fresh look at one of the essential ingredients of their craft. Allworth Press, an imprint of Skyhorse Publishing, publishes a broad range of books on the visual and performing arts, with emphasis on the business of art. Our titles cover subjects such as graphic design, theater, branding, fine art, photography, interior design, writing, acting, film, how to start careers, business and legal forms, business practices, and more. While we don't aspire to publish a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are deeply committed to quality books that help creative professionals succeed and thrive. We often publish in areas overlooked by other publishers and welcome the author whose expertise can help our audience of readers.

"Inside The Positive Trait Thesaurus, you'll find a large selection of attributes to choose from when building a personality profile, real character examples from literature, film, or television to show how an attribute drives actions and decisions, influences goals, and steers relationships, advice on using positive traits to immediately hook readers while avoiding common personality pitfalls, insight on human needs and morality, and how each determines the strengths that emerge in heroes and villains alike, information on the key role positive attributes play within the character arc, and how they're vital to overcoming fatal flaws and achieving success, and downloadable tools for organizing a character's

attributes and providing a deeper understanding of his past, his needs, and his emotional wounds."--

"Show, don't tell is probably the single most-important piece of advice given to writers. But many writers struggle to understand this powerful principle or have difficulty applying it to their own work. Even experienced authors sometimes don't grasp the finer nuances of showing and telling. In this book, Sandra Gerth draws on her experience as an editor and best-selling author to show you how to show and tell you when to tell. Each chapter includes concrete examples and exercises that will hone your writing skills." - Back Cover

The classic manifesto of the liberated woman, this book explores every facet of a woman's life.

Three brothers and their relations in 19th century Russia provide the base for a sweeping epic overview of human striving, folly and hope. First published in 1880, *The Brothers Karamazov* is a landmark work in every respect. Revolving around shiftless father Fyodor Pavlovich Karamazov are the fates of his three sons, each of whom has fortunes entwined with the others. The eldest son, Dimitri, seeks an inheritance from his father and becomes his rival in love. Ivan, the second son, is so at odds with the world that he is driven near to madness, while the youngest, Alexi, is a man of faith and a natural optimist. These

personalities are drawn out and tested in a crucible of conflict and emotion as the author forces upon them fundamental questions of morality, faith, reason and responsibility. This charged situation is pushed to its limit by the addition of the unthinkable, murder and possible patricide. Using shifting viewpoints and delving into the minds of his characters, Dostoevsky adopted fresh techniques to tell his wide-reaching story with power and startling effectiveness. The Brothers Karamazov remains one of the most respected and celebrated novels in all literature and continues to reward readers beyond expectation. With an eye-catching new cover, and professionally typeset manuscript, this edition of The Brothers Karamazov is both modern and readable.

In a futuristic military adventure a recruit goes through the roughest boot camp in the universe and into battle with the Terran Mobile Infantry in what historians would come to call the First Interstellar War

Develop compelling character arcs using the power of myth! In the best novels, characters undergo dramatic changes that keep readers turning pages. A Writer's Guide to Characterization shows you how to develop such meaningful character arcs in your own work--stories of transformation that will resonate with readers long after the story ends. In this comprehensive guide, author Victoria Lynn Schmidt examines cross-cultural archetypes to illustrate how they can make your

work more powerful and compelling. Plus, you'll learn how to draw from Jungian psychology to add complexity and believability to your characters. Schmidt also provides: 40 lessons on character development (with examples from well-known films and novels) that you can apply to your own work Questionnaires and exercises to help you select male and female archetypes and adapt them to your story 15 classic animal archetypes (including the coyote, snake, tiger, and butterfly) you can use to build convincing character profiles With *A Writer's Guide to Characterization*, you'll have the information you need to infuse the development of your characters with drama and authenticity.

Of all the formative experiences in a character's past, none are more destructive than emotional wounds. The aftershocks of trauma can change who they are, alter what they believe, and sabotage their ability to achieve meaningful goals, all of which will affect the trajectory of a story. Enter *The Emotional Wound Thesaurus*, which explores over 100 possible traumatic experiences from a character's past and how they can impact the character in the present. Armed with this unique resource, authors will be able to root their characters in reality by giving them an authentic wound that causes difficulties and prompts them to strive for inner growth to overcome it.

Making readers care and feel like they're part of the story should be the number one

goal of all writers. Ironically, many storytellers fail to maximize one of fiction's most powerful elements to achieve this: the setting. Rather than being a simple backdrop against which events unfold, every location has the potential to become a conduit for conveying emotion, characterizing the cast, providing opportunities for deep point of view, and revealing significant backstory. Inside this volume, you will find:

- A list of the sights, smells, tastes, textures, and sounds for over 120 urban settings
- Possible sources of conflict for each location to help you brainstorm ways to naturally complicate matters for your characters
- Advice on how to make every piece of description count so you can maintain the right pace and keep readers engaged
- Tips on utilizing the five senses to encourage readers to more fully experience each moment by triggering their own emotional memories
- Information on how to use the setting to characterize a story's cast through personalization and emotional values while using emotional triggers to steer their decisions
- A review of specific challenges that arise when choosing an urban location, along with common descriptive pitfalls that should be avoided

The Urban Setting Thesaurus helps you tailor each setting to your characters while creating a realistic, textured world your readers will long to return to, even after the book closes.

When it comes to writing weapons, most authors shoot from the hip--and miss. The Writer's Guide to Weapons will help you hit your target every time. Firearms and knives have starring roles in a wide range of genres--crime, thriller, war, mystery, Western,

and more. Unfortunately, many depictions of weapons in novels and film are pure fiction. Knowing the difference between a shotshell and a slug, a pistol and a revolver, or a switchblade and a butterfly knife is essential for imbuing your story with authenticity--and gaining popularity with discerning readers. Inside you'll find:

- An in-depth look at the basics of firearms and knives: how they work, why they work, what they look like, and how to depict them accurately in your stories.
- The biggest weapons myths in fiction, TV, and film.
- A surefire guide for choosing the correct weapon for your characters, no matter their skill level, strength, or background.
- A review of major gun and knife laws, weapons safety tips, and common police tactics.
- "The Hit List," showcasing the most popular weapons for spies, detectives, gunslingers, gangsters, military characters, and more.
- Examples highlighting inaccurate vs. accurate weapons depictions.
- An insightful foreword by David Morrell, the award-winning creator of Rambo.

Equal parts accessible, humorous, and practical, *The Writer's Guide to Weapons* is the one resource you need to incorporate firearms and knives into your fiction like a seasoned professional.

We're living in a time of unprecedented diversity in produced media content, with more LGBT characters, more characters of color, more disabled characters, and more characters from various religions or classes. These characters also appear in genre pieces, accessible to the mainstream, instead of being hidden away in so-called "worthier" pieces, as in the past. This book discusses issues of race, disability, sexuality

and transgender people with specific reference to characterization in movies, TV, and novel writing. Using such examples as the film *Mad Max: Fury Road* and the novel *Gone Girl*, the book explores how character role function really works. It discusses such questions as the difference between stereotype and archetype, why "trope" does not mean what Twitter and Tumblr think it means, how the burden of casting affects both box office and audience perception, and why diversity is not about agendas, buzzwords or being "politically correct." It also goes into what authenticity truly means, and why research is so important; why variety is key in ensuring true diversity in characterization; and what agents, publishers, producers, filmmakers and commissioners are looking for—and why.

No matter what genre you write, this second manual on the Deep Point of View technique should be kept as a vital reference in every writer's toolbox. This in-depth guide offers specific, practical tools for creative fiction writers on how to craft realistic settings, visceral responses, and lifelike characters. Crammed with even more examples and ways to eliminate shallow writing, this book provides the necessary techniques to master describing facial expressions, body language, and character emotions. This resource of endless inspiration will reveal how to dig deeper to "show don't tell," which is essential to crafting compelling dialogue, vivid scenes, and deepening characterization.

"If character development is your problem, this detailed reference tool for any writer is

the solution. Covering a variety of genres, time periods and styles, [this] adds nuance and depth to the typical character stereotypes many writers rely on. " --P. [4] of cover. [Writer's Guide to Character Traits](#)Penguin

From Sex to Schizophrenia: Everything You Need to Develop Your Characters! What makes a person commit a white-collar crime? Who is a likely candidate to join a cult? Why do children have imaginary friends? How does birth order affect whether or not a person gets married? When does mind over matter become a crippling problem?

[Writer's Guide to Character Traits](#), 2nd edition answers all of these questions and many others. With more than 400 easy-to-reference lists of traits blended from a variety of behaviors and influences, you'll gain the knowledge you need to create distinctive characters whose personalities correspond to their thoughts and actions - no matter how normal or psychotic they might be. In this updated and expanded edition, you'll also find:

- Comprehensive instruction on how to use this book
- New statistical information to help you create true-to-life characters
- Corresponding exercises that show you how to put the material to work in your stories
- A quick-reference index to make cross-referencing a snap
- Idea sparkers to get your thoughts out of your head and onto the page

Plus, you'll learn about common - and not so common - psychological, physical, and relationship disorders; delve into the minds of criminals; find out what it takes to be a professional athlete, scientist, and truck driver; discover what life is like for a gang member, suicidal teen, and alcoholic; and more. In [Writer's](#)

Guide to Character Traits, 2nd edition, note psychologist and author Dr. Linda Edelstein takes you beyond generic personality types and into the depths of the human psyche where you're sure to find the resources you need to make your characters stand out from the crowd.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER “I come from a family forged by tragedies and bound by a remarkable, unbreakable love,” Hunter Biden writes in this deeply moving memoir of addiction, loss, and survival. When he was two years old, Hunter Biden was badly injured in a car accident that killed his mother and baby sister. In 2015, he suffered the devastating loss of his beloved big brother, Beau, who died of brain cancer at the age of forty-six. These hardships were compounded by the collapse of his marriage and a years-long battle with drug and alcohol addiction. In *Beautiful Things*, Hunter recounts his descent into substance abuse and his tortuous path to sobriety. The story ends with where Hunter is today—a sober married man with a new baby, finally able to appreciate the beautiful things in life.

Hogwarts meets *The Bourne Identity* in this action-packed thriller for fans of Marie Lu's *Legends* series and James Dashner's *Maze Runner* trilogy Sixteen-year-old Nadia Riley is delighted to earn a spot at an elite, government-funded boarding school. Nothing sounds better than leaving behind her fraught relationship with her ex-boyfriend and moving to faraway Arizona to attend Desert Mountain Academy. But when she arrives, Nadia finds out she has more than classwork to catch up on. *Desert Mountain*

Academy is a covert CIA program, which recruits and trains high-achieving students for Black-Ops work. While struggling to keep up with her new classes, Nadia must also gain the trust of her teammates, and survive a rigorous exercise and combat training course. Thrilled at the opportunity, Nadia isn't expecting to fall in love—or to end up in real, deadly danger. When news leaks that there is a double agent on campus, suddenly everyone is a suspect—including Nadia. To clear her name, she must use her newfound skills to uncover the traitor—before he can eliminate her as a threat. Told from alternating points of view, including that of the anonymous double agent, *Desert Dark* is perfect for young adult readers who love action, adventure, and intrigue.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER USA TODAY BESTSELLER NATIONAL INDIE BESTSELLER THE WASHINGTON POST BESTSELLER Recommended by Entertainment Weekly, Real Simple, NPR, Slate, and Oprah Magazine #1 Library Reads Pick—October 2020 #1 Indie Next Pick—October 2020 BOOK OF THE YEAR (2020) FINALIST—Book of The Month Club A “Best Of” Book From: Oprah Mag \* CNN \* Amazon \* Amazon Editors \* NPR \* Goodreads \* Bustle \* PopSugar \* BuzzFeed \* Barnes & Noble \* Kirkus Reviews \* Lambda Literary \* Nerdette \* The Nerd Daily \* Polygon \* Library Reads \* io9 \* Smart Bitches Trashy Books \* LiteraryHub \* Medium \* BookBub \* The Mary Sue \* Chicago Tribune \* NY Daily News \* SyFy Wire \* Powells.com \* Bookish \* Book Riot \* Library Reads Voter Favorite \* In the vein of *The Time Traveler’s Wife* and *Life After Life*, *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* is New York

Times bestselling author V. E. Schwab's genre-defying tour de force. *A Life No One Will Remember. A Story You Will Never Forget.* France, 1714: in a moment of desperation, a young woman makes a Faustian bargain to live forever—and is cursed to be forgotten by everyone she meets. Thus begins the extraordinary life of Addie LaRue, and a dazzling adventure that will play out across centuries and continents, across history and art, as a young woman learns how far she will go to leave her mark on the world. But everything changes when, after nearly 300 years, Addie stumbles across a young man in a hidden bookstore and he remembers her name. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

Uncover the Secrets to Creating Characters Readers Will Never Forget Award-winning author K.M. Weiland's previous book, the acclaimed *Creating Character Arcs*, showed writers how to identify the five most important types of character arcs and use them to bring your own characters to life with stunning and powerful realism. Now it's time to put those lessons to use! Building upon the principles you've already learned, the *Creating Character Arcs Workbook* presents a guided approach to choosing the right type of character arc for your story, joining plot and character into a cohesive and resonant whole, and choosing stories with life-changing themes. Containing hundreds of incisive questions and imagination-revving exercises, this valuable resource will show you how to: Write an inspiring Positive Change Arc Create one of three unforgettable Negative

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Change Arcs Take full advantage of a heroic Flat Arc Align the structure of your character arcs with that of your plot Revise a story that has no arc And so much more! This accessible and streamlined workbook will empower you to create resonant character arcs-and an outstanding novel. Start writing your best book today!

"First published in hardcover in Great Britain by Viking, an imprint of Penguin Books, a division of Penguin Random House Ltd., London"--Copyright page.

Create characters that leap off the page--and into readers' hearts! Populating your fiction with authentic, vivid characters is a surefire way to captivate your readers from the first sentence to the last. Whether you're writing a series, novel, short story, or flash fiction, *Creating Characters* is an invaluable guide to bringing your fictional cast to life.

This book is a comprehensive reference to every stage of character development.

You'll find timely advice and helpful instruction from best-selling authors like Nancy Kress, Elizabeth Sims, Orson Scott Card, Chuck Wendig, Hallie Ephron, Donald Maass, and James Scott Bell. They'll show you how to:

- Effectively introduce your characters
- Build a believable protagonist
- Develop strong anti-heroes and compelling villains
- Juggle multiple points of view without missing a beat
- Craft authentic dialogue that propels the story forward
- Motivate your characters with powerful objectives and a believable conflict
- Show dynamic character development over the course of a story

No matter what your genre, *Creating Characters* gives you the tools necessary to create realistic, fascinating characters that your readers will root

for and remember long after they've finished the story.

Compelling fiction starts with characters who have well-crafted layers that make them memorable, relatable, and fascinating. But trying to convey those layers often results in bulky descriptions that cause readers to skim. Occupations, though, can cover a lot of characterization ground, revealing personality traits, abilities, passions, and motivations. Dig deeper, and a career can hint at past trauma, fears, and even the character's efforts to run from—or make up for—the past. Select a job that packs a powerful punch. Inside *The Occupation Thesaurus*, you'll find:

- \* Informative profiles on popular and unusual jobs to help you write them with authority
- \* Believable conflict scenarios for each occupation, giving you unlimited possibilities for adding tension at the story and scene level
- \* Advice for twisting the stereotypes often associated with these professions
- \* Instruction on how to use jobs to characterize, support story structure, reinforce theme, and more
- \* An in-depth study on how emotional wounds and basic human needs may influence a character's choice of occupation
- \* A brainstorming tool to organize the various aspects of your character's personality so you can come up with the best careers for them

Choose a profession for your character that brings more to the table than just a paycheck. With over 120 entries in a user-friendly format, *The Occupation Thesaurus* is an entire job fair for writers.

Create characters whose professional lives resonate with realistic details and insider insights.

Zelie Adebola remembers when the soil of Or sha hummed with magic. Burners ignited flames, Tiders beckoned waves, and Zelie s Reaper mother summoned forth souls. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zelie without a mother and her people without hope.

Explores the techniques of effective character development in the processing of writing novels to take the author's stories from good to great, including how to determine which arc is right for your character, why you should never pit plot against character, and how to avoid the pitfalls of writing novels without character arcs.

Theme Is What Your Story Is Really About Theme-the mysterious cousin of plot and character. Too often viewed as abstract rather than actionable, theme is frequently misunderstood and left to chance. Some writers even insist theme should not be purposefully implemented. This is unfortunate, because in many ways theme is story. Theme is the heart, the meaning, the point. Nothing that important should be overlooked. Powerful themes are never incidental. They emerge from the conjunction of strong plots and resonant character arcs. This means you can learn to plan and implement theme. In doing so, you will deepen your ability to write not only stories that entertain, but also stories that stay with readers long after the end. Writing Your Story's Theme will teach you: How to create theme from plot and character. Why every supporting character and subplot should enhance the theme. How to prevent theme from seeming preachy or "on the nose." What to consider in identifying the best theme for any given story. And much more! Conscious mastery of theme will elevate every story you write and allow you to craft fiction of depth and meaning. Take Control of Your Story Via a Powerful

### Implementation of Theme

The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel that tells the story of two sisters through their correspondence. With a new Preface by the author.

"One of the biggest problem areas for writers is conveying emotion to the reader in a unique, compelling way. When showing our characters' feelings, we often grab onto the first idea that comes to mind, and our characters end up smiling, shrugging, nodding, and frowning far too much. Need some inspiration to get you beyond the basics? Inside *The Emotion Thesaurus*, you'll find: emotion entires that list body language, thoughts, and visceral responses for each, a breakdown of the biggest emotion-related writing problems and how to overcome them, body language and action cues that address both acute and suppressed forms of emotion, suggestions for each emotion that cover a range of intensity, from mild to extreme, description tips on emotion, dialogue, characters, and setting. Now expanded to include 55 new entries"--*Craft Vibrant Characters* and an Intimate Reading Experience The key to excellent fiction lies in its characters: the unforgettable protagonists, antagonists, and secondary characters who populate the world of your story. Understanding and effectively using point of view allows you to write a powerful narrative that draws readers in and engages them with characters in a meaningful way. Through a blend of practical instruction, useful examples, and helpful exercises, *Writing the Intimate Character* shows you how to create the experience of living through a character rather than just reading about one. Inside, you'll learn:

- The functions and benefits of first-person, third-person intimate, omniscient, and second-person points of view.
- How to apply character cues--specific behaviors, sensory perceptions, dialogue, and visual imagery--to develop a realistic protagonist and secondary cast.
- The surface and subset

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feelings that get to the root of your character's emotions. • How different viewpoints affect the story you want to tell. Writing the Intimate Character helps you craft a novel in which readers can experience your characters' senses, dive inside their minds, and truly feel their emotions. "Writing the Intimate Character, the latest engaging guide by Jordan Rosenfeld, is a rich resource we'll all be learning from for the rest of our lives. 'Does the term point of view seem too dull and dry?' she asks. 'Try intimacy instead.' And then she shows us how, with diverse examples and wise observation. Now that I have Jordan's take on how to create a character from the inside out, I'm eager to get to it. You, too, will find this book that inspiring." --Rebecca Lawton, author of *Sacrament: Homage to a River* and other books "Writing the Intimate Character provides insights, examples, and exercises that will be useful not only to those who are new to writing fiction but to those, like myself, who are coming back to it after a break. Jordan Rosenfeld's explanation of how narrative voice works with point of view and other literary elements to create characters that readers care deeply about is clear and revelatory. The book can be worked through methodically or dipped into as needed. It's a useful tool for getting the gears of imagination working or for jump-starting and fine-tuning a work in process." --Zoe Zolbrod, author of the novel *Currency* and the memoir *The Telling* "Jordan Rosenfeld has a keen insight into how to construct characters who are truly lived-in. With intelligence and wit, she walks you through every element of powerful characterization, from selecting your POV to demonstrating character growth throughout your story. Whether you're new to fiction or a more experienced writer, put your trust in Jordan Rosenfeld; she'll help you tell a better story." --Laura Bogart, freelance writer and novelist

Crafting likable, interesting characters is a balancing act, and finding that perfect mix of

strengths and weaknesses can be difficult. Not only does a well-drawn protagonist need positive attributes to help him succeed, he must also have flaws that humanize him and give him something to overcome. The same is true of villains and the rest of the story's supporting cast. So how can writers figure out which flaws best fit their characters? Which negative traits will create personality clashes and conflict while making success difficult? Nothing adds complexity like character flaws. Inside *The Negative Trait Thesaurus* you'll find:

- \* A vast collection of flaws to explore when building a character's personality. Each entry includes possible causes, attitudes, behaviors, thoughts, and related emotions
- \* Real examples from literature, film, or television to show how each flaw can create life challenges and relational friction
- \* Advice on building layered and memorable characters from the ground up
- \* An in-depth look at backstory, emotional wounds, and how pain twists a character's view of himself and his world, influencing behavior and decision making
- \* A flaw-centric exploration of character arc, relationships, motivation, and basic needs
- \* Tips on how to best show a character's flaws to readers while avoiding common pitfalls
- \* Downloadable tools to aid writers in character creation

*The Negative Trait Thesaurus* sheds light on your character's dark side. Written in list format and fully indexed, this brainstorming resource is perfect for creating deep, flawed characters readers will relate to.

Former private investigator and New York Times notable author David Corbett offers a unique and indispensable toolkit for creating characters that come vividly to life on the page and linger in memory. Corbett provides an inventive, inspiring, and vastly entertaining blueprint to all the elements of characterization—from initial inspiration to realization—with special insights into the power of secrets and contradictions, the embodiment of roles, managing the "tyranny of

motive," and mastering crucial techniques required for memorable dialogue and unforgettable scenes. This is a how-to guide for both aspiring and accomplished writers that renders all other books of its kind obsolete.

This Handbook offers a comprehensive introduction and thirty-seven new essays by an international team of literary critics and historians on the writings generated by the tumultuous events of mid-seventeenth-century England. Unprecedented events-civil war, regicide, the abolition of monarchy, proscription of episcopacy, constitutional experiment, and finally the return of monarchy-led to an unprecedented outpouring of texts, including new and transformed literary genres and techniques. The Handbook provides up-to-date scholarship on current issues as well as historical information, textual analysis, and bibliographical tools to help readers understand and appreciate the bold and indeed revolutionary character of writing in mid-seventeenth-century England. The volume is innovative in its attention to the literary and aesthetic aspects of a wide range of political and religious writing, as well as in its demonstration of how literary texts register the political pressures of their time. Opening with essential contextual chapters on religion, politics, society, and culture, the largely chronological subsequent chapters analyse particular voices, texts, and genres as they respond to revolutionary events. Attention is given to aesthetic qualities, as well as to bold political and religious ideas, in such writers as James Harrington, Marchamont Nedham, Thomas Hobbes, Gerrard Winstanley, John Lilburne, and Abiezer Coppe. At the same time, the revolutionary political context sheds new light on such well-known literary writers as John Milton, Andrew Marvell, Robert Herrick, Henry Vaughan, William Davenant, John Dryden, Lucy Hutchinson, Margaret Cavendish, and John Bunyan. Overall, the volume provides an indispensable guide

to the innovative and exciting texts of the English Revolution and reevaluates its long-term cultural impact.

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