

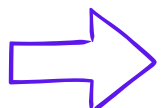
Today's Recap: Building Believable Characters

Great work today exploring what makes a character truly believable and memorable.

- **Believable Characters Need Depth:** We learned that simple descriptions aren't enough. Memorable characters are built on motivation (what they want), flaws (what holds them back), and conflict (the battle between the two).
- **Archetypes are Blueprints:** We discussed Character Archetypes (like The Hero, The Mentor, The Rebel) as starting points. They are universal patterns we recognize in stories.
 - **The Key Insight:** Don't stop at the archetype! A good writer takes the blueprint and adds unique complications—that's where the character's depth comes from.
- **The Internal Conflict:** The most powerful part of a character is their Internal Conflict. This is when their desire runs head-first into their flaw or fear.
 - We wrote it as: [Desire] vs. [Flaw/Fear]. This is what keeps the reader interested and drives the Character Arc (how the character changes).

Archetype	Core Desire / Motivation	Core Flaw / Fear	Example
The Hero	To prove worth through courageous action; to save the day.	Arrogance, fear of weakness, vulnerability.	Harry Potter (<i>Harry Potter</i>), Katniss Everdeen (<i>The Hunger Games</i>), Luke Skywalker (<i>Star Wars</i>).
The Mentor (Sage)	To guide the protagonist; to share wisdom and experience.	Inability to act (often too old or bound by a code), too cautious.	Obi-Wan Kenobi (<i>Star Wars</i>), Albus Dumbledore (<i>Harry Potter</i>), Yoda .
The Shadow (Villain)	To destroy the Hero; to obtain power/control/a specific goal, often as a dark mirror of the Hero's desire.	Evil, paranoia, self-destruction, lack of empathy.	Lord Voldemort (<i>Harry Potter</i>), Darth Vader (<i>Star Wars</i>), The Joker (<i>DC Comics</i>).
The Sidekick (Ally)	To support the Hero; to belong and help.	Lack of independent thought, fear of being alone, weakness.	Ron Weasley & Hermione Granger (<i>Harry Potter</i>), Samwise Gamgee (<i>Lord of the Rings</i>), Chewbacca (<i>Star Wars</i>).
The Rebel (Outlaw)	To overturn what isn't working; to challenge the status quo.	Unfocused anger, becoming too extreme or destructive, crime.	Robin Hood , Sirius Black (<i>Harry Potter</i>), Han Solo (<i>Star Wars</i>).
The Innocent	To remain good, pure, and happy; to find paradise.	Naivety, easily deceived, inability to face reality.	Dorothy Gale (<i>The Wizard of Oz</i>), Forrest Gump .
The Caregiver (Nurturer)	To protect and care for others; to help people in need.	Martyrdom, self-neglect, being exploited.	Mary Poppins , Molly Weasley (<i>Harry Potter</i>), Samwise Gamgee (also fits this).
The Trickster (Jester)	To bring joy to the world; to expose the absurdity of things.	Wastefulness, laziness, insensitivity.	The Cheshire Cat (<i>Alice in Wonderland</i>), Puck (<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>), The Genie (<i>Aladdin</i>).
The Explorer	To find out who they are; to experience the new and unknown.	Aimless wandering, inability to commit, alienation.	Odysseus (<i>The Odyssey</i>), Moana , Indiana Jones .

Homework on Next Page



Homework Assignment: The Protagonist Profile

Goal: To fully develop a complex, unique protagonist for a narrative you will begin writing next week.

- What to Do:
- 1. Complete the Protagonist Profile Worksheet (The remaining sections beyond what we finished in class).
 - 2. Focus on Complexity: Ensure your character moves beyond a simple stereotype by having a strong flaw and an equally strong motivation.

The Protagonist Profile Sheet is Due: 11/16/2025

Section	Focus Question	My Character's Response
I. The Blueprint		
1. Starting Archetype	What general pattern are they based on?	
2. Deep Desire/Motivation	What is the <i>one thing</i> they desperately want?	
3. Key Flaw/Weakness	What internal trait holds them back? (e.g., arrogance, shyness, impulsiveness)	
4. Internal Conflict	How do their Desire and Flaw fight each other?	
II. The Details		
5. External Challenge	What event or outside force is happening in the story that forces them to face their internal conflict?	
6. Core Strength	What is one unique, positive quality they possess that will help them on their journey?	
7. Appearance & Manner	Describe a few key features. What is the first impression they give?	
8. Greatest Fear (Be Specific)	Beyond their key flaw, what is the worst thing that could happen to them?	
9. Character Arc Prediction	What is the one crucial lesson or change they must undergo by the <i>end</i> of the story to succeed?	