

## Character Analysis and Description



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### A NOTE ON YOUR WRITTEN EXAMS

- Written exams are OPEN BOOK (unless otherwise notified)
- You are allowed ONE HAND-WRITTEN cheat sheet (front & back)
  - Annotations:
    - Quotes, important expositions and plot developments, character notes, definition of terms
- This exam will be typed in Short Answer & Essay format on Moodle, and may contain Multiple Choice and Matching as well.
  - Short Answers are 1 paragraph in length
  - Essays are 3-5 paragraphs in length
  - All written responses must contain a THESIS
- This exam is timed

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### BASICS OF CHARACTER ANALYSIS

- Character analysis =
  - Clues from the story to learn more about characters
  - Aids in understanding the story and its meanings
  - Makes stories more real and personal
- How we learn about characters:
  - : The author tells you exactly what he/she wants you to know about the character.
  - : The author lets the characters reveal their personalities through what they think, say or do.



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## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT CHARACTERS

- >
- >
- > Environment
- > Traumatic Experiences
- > Poor/Good Choices (Past)
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- > Poor/Good Choices (Present - carried through the Plot)
- > Words or Phrases the Character uses to describe their feelings of events and actions
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- > How does this Character interact with other characters in the text?
  - Journey the Character takes through encountering explicit conflict and dealing with implicit conflict




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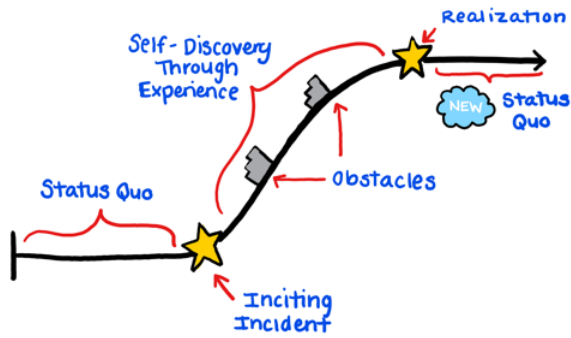
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## CHARACTER ARCS




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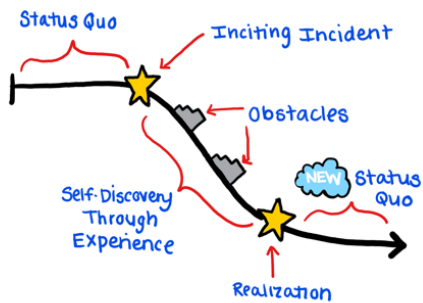
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## CHARACTER ARCS




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## THE 12 CHARACTER ARCHETYPES

<b>THE WARRIOR</b> 	<b>THE CHILD</b> 	<b>THE ORPHAN</b> 
<b>STRENGTHS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical and/or mental prowess</li> <li>• Courage</li> <li>• Ability for walking</li> </ul> <b>WEAKNESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Egoistical</li> <li>• Overambitious aspirations</li> <li>• Can be over-protective</li> </ul> <b>MOTIVATION:</b> <p>Someone has to save the day. Why not me?</p>	<b>STRENGTHS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Imagination</li> <li>• Trusting</li> <li>• Helpful</li> </ul> <b>WEAKNESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Naive or glibly naïve in power</li> <li>• Naive to the world</li> <li>• Easily taken advantage of</li> </ul> <b>MOTIVATION:</b> <p>To learn, when forgotten, and to find truth</p>	<b>STRENGTHS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They command respect</li> <li>• They're survivors</li> <li>• They have empathy for the commoner</li> </ul> <b>WEAKNESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They're intensely what others think of them</li> <li>• No self confidence</li> <li>• No anger to defend</li> </ul> <b>MOTIVATION:</b> <p>To learn, understand, accepted &amp; connect with people</p>
<b>THE CREATOR</b> 	<b>THE CAREGIVER</b> 	<b>THE MENTOR</b> 
<b>STRENGTHS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventive and wise</li> <li>• Creative genius</li> <li>• Wise</li> </ul> <b>WEAKNESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unable to compromise or listen</li> <li>• Misleading perfectionism</li> <li>• Often abuses caregiver role</li> </ul> <b>MOTIVATION:</b> <p>The lasting impression of whatever they built, logos, ideas, or art.</p>	<b>STRENGTHS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Big heart</li> <li>• Selfless acts</li> <li>• Generous</li> </ul> <b>WEAKNESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ego involved</li> <li>• One track mind</li> <li>• One which cannot turn their own</li> </ul> <b>MOTIVATION:</b> <p>Protect those they love at all cost. They live to serve.</p>	<b>STRENGTHS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wisdom about the world</li> <li>• Calm presence</li> <li>• Good listener</li> </ul> <b>WEAKNESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unable to listen and solve problems</li> <li>• Pedantic can get boring</li> <li>• Cannot trust their students</li> </ul> <b>MOTIVATION:</b> <p>To teach the next generation to pick up the gauntlet.</p>

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## CHARACTER ARCHETYPES

<b>THE JOKER</b> 	<b>THE MAGICIAN</b> 	<b>THE RULER</b> 
<b>STRENGTHS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They go with their own</li> <li>• They're fun to be around</li> <li>• Can make things cool</li> </ul> <b>WEAKNESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unreliable in times of need</li> <li>• Easily let by the temptations</li> <li>• A constant distraction</li> </ul> <b>MOTIVATION:</b> <p>What will make you the Joker and what will make me Joker?</p>	<b>STRENGTHS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge</li> <li>• Strategy</li> <li>• Emotional understanding</li> </ul> <b>WEAKNESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Naïve</li> <li>• Eager if they don't get their way</li> <li>• Sometimes over fire</li> </ul> <b>MOTIVATION:</b> <p>Power and manipulation. They see chaos in the world and know how to take the reins.</p>	<b>STRENGTHS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power</li> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Commanding voice</li> </ul> <b>WEAKNESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control of all costs</li> <li>• Repetitive phrase against them</li> </ul> <b>MOTIVATION:</b> <p>How do people &amp; order in society by manipulating their power and getting more power.</p>
<b>THE REBEL</b> 	<b>THE LOVER</b> 	<b>THE SEDUCER</b> 
<b>STRENGTHS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Never give up</li> <li>• Can repeat the mission</li> <li>• Know how to get it out of a bind</li> </ul> <b>WEAKNESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repeating, how are the future gone</li> <li>• Not to each what they got the hard way</li> <li>• They have no power when they were betrayed</li> </ul> <b>MOTIVATION:</b> <p>The world needs, we will change it.</p>	<b>STRENGTHS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Devoted to another</li> <li>• Knowledge about the aspect of their affliction</li> <li>• Open with their feelings</li> </ul> <b>WEAKNESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unable to let go</li> <li>• Can lose their own personality while pleasing another</li> </ul> <b>MOTIVATION:</b> <p>To give somebody they're given another person. To make unconditional things.</p>	<b>STRENGTHS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charisma</li> <li>• Beauty</li> <li>• Smooth talker</li> </ul> <b>WEAKNESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No control</li> <li>• Controlling</li> <li>• No loyalty</li> </ul> <b>MOTIVATION:</b> <p>To win the stakes. They want power and control of all costs.</p>

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## CHARACTER ANALYSIS & DESCRIPTION

- Physical Characteristics
- History
- Behavior
- Relationships
- Character Arc
- Thesis?



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## CHARACTER ANALYSIS & DESCRIPTION



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## BE THOROUGH! GO BEYOND THE BASICS!

### ➤ Katniss the Provider

- “It was slow-going at first, but I was determined to feed us. I stole eggs from nests, caught fish in nets, sometimes managed to shoot a squirrel or rabbit for stew, and gathered the various plants that sprung up beneath my feet. Plants are tricky. Many are edible, but one false mouthful and you’re dead. I checked and double-checked the plants I harvested with my father’s pictures. I kept us alive.” (4.19)



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## BE THOROUGH! GO BEYOND THE BASICS!

### ➤ Katniss the Survivor

- It’s been a hard-knock life for Katniss. As Peeta’s mom comments, rather coldly, “ She’s a survivor, that one” (7.31).
- Whether she’s in the woods of District 12 or the Gamemaker’s arena, Katniss is concerned with one thing: how to stay alive. This, of course, makes her a fierce competitor. She can hunt, fish, trap, and fight.



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## BE THOROUGH! GO BEYOND THE BASICS!

### > Katniss the Celebrity

> Haymitch explains: "It's all a big show. It's all how you're perceived. The most I could say about you after your interview was that you were nice enough, although that in itself was a small miracle. Now I can say you're a heartbreaker. Oh, oh, oh, how the boys back home fall longingly at your feet. Which do you think will get you more sponsors?" (10.24)

> Katniss becomes a pro at playing the game of celebrity, and at playing the audiences and sponsors of the Hunger Games. But she'll also learn that the distinctions between what's real and what's not can sometimes blur.



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## BE THOROUGH! GO BEYOND THE BASICS!

### > Katniss the Girl on Fire

> "Every head is turned our way, pulling the focus from the three chariots ahead of us. At first, I'm frozen, but then I catch sight of us on a large television screen and am floored by how breathtaking we look. In the deepening twilight, the firelight illuminates our faces." (5.56)

> The flaming spectacle has mass appeal and the crowd goes wild. Katniss's girl on fire bit is a hit.

> But, while Katniss might literally be on fire in Cinna's dresses, we should also remember that she is on fire in other ways too.



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## BE THOROUGH! GO BEYOND THE BASICS!

### > Katniss the Love Object

> Team Gale or Team Peeta?



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## WRITING THE ESSAY

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### ➤ Paragraph 1 (Intro)

- Hook
- Quick summary of Character's arc
- Thesis:
  - Three character traits that impacted the story, and what is significant about this character?

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## WRITING THE ESSAY

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### ➤ Paragraphs 2-4 (Body)

- State the Character Trait (brave? seductress?)
- Describe examples/events that demonstrate that trait
- Provide a quote that provides evidence about the Character's thoughts or actions to help demonstrate that trait
- 2-3 sentences of commentary and exposition about this trait — what's the impact on the story development, or how does it relate to things outside the text?

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## WRITING THE ESSAY

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### ➤ Paragraphs 5 (conclusion)

- Make a final statement about the Character
- Restate the three traits
- Final Commentary:
  - What did this essay prove?
  - What is the link to things outside the text or modern application to society?

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