

Character Worksheet

Before completing this questionnaire, you must do the following:

Read the whole play.

~Write down everything other characters in the play say about your character.

~Write down everything your character says about themselves.

These are the things that you know.

~Write down all the things you want to know that the play doesn't tell you (i.e., how old are they? When did they meet this person they are in love with?).

These are the things you want to know.

Then do the questionnaire below and plug in your answers based on what you know and what you must decide that the script doesn't tell you.

1. What is the character's full name?
2. How old are they?
3. What gender are they? How has this shaped their life? What have they been given or not given based on their gender? Has their gender limited or helped their goals in life?
4. What are some exceptional or important physical characteristics they have (i.e., they're blind or deaf, they're physically disabled, they have scars, they have tattoos, they have exceptional beauty that everyone talks about)? Have they been discriminated against based on their appearance in any way?
5. Where did they grow up?
6. Did they grow up with money? Are they royalty? What's their status or class?
7. Did they grow up with both parents? One parent? Are they an orphan? Are they a legitimate or illegitimate child? Are they acknowledged and loved by their parents? Ignored? The favorite? The black sheep?
8. Did they/Do they have siblings? Are they close to those siblings? Mortal enemies with their siblings? Where do they fall in the line (i.e., youngest, oldest, middle, part of a huge family)?

9. Were they brought up religiously?
10. Do they still observe that religion?
11. Do they believe in a god or gods or goddesses or some sort? How does that belief or lack of belief shape their life? How does that belief or lack of belief *change* as the play progresses?
12. Did they receive an education? Go to school? Study a trade or craft? For how long? How smart are they? What do they excel at?
13. What do they believe in? What core beliefs do they live their life by? What core experiences shaped their beliefs? What person or event shaped the path they are on right now?
14. What are their moral values? Do they drink? Smoke? Do drugs? Steal? Kill? Are they loyal? Are they trustworthy? Do they lie? What situation might force them to lie? What situation might force them to do something immoral?
15. Have they ever been in love? Are they in love now? Are they monogamous or a player? What are their ideas and ideals about love, romance, marriage and children?
16. What is their experience with and ideas about sex?
17. Do they have children? What are they like as a parent?
18. Have they ever fought in a war? Have they ever fought with another person? How did that experience shape them?
19. Have they ever lost someone close to them? What is their experience with death? Have they seen it? Are they close to it? Are they scared of it? Ready for it? Asking for it?
20. What are their flaws? What mistakes have they made? What bad decisions have they acted out on?
21. What makes them angry? How do they express that anger? Or do they?
22. What are they attracted to? How do they express that attraction? Or do they?

23. Who is the most important person in their life? Why? How long have they known this person? Can they tell this person everything? Who do they confide in? Is there no one? Is it us (the audience)?
24. What are their secrets? How long have they had them?
25. Are they an introvert or an extrovert? Shy? Outgoing? Funny? Serious? A flirt? A prude? Are they open or closed off? Are they able to show vulnerability? When was the last time they cried (when the play opens)?
26. What masks do they wear? What don't they show to the world? What do they use to hide—humor? Anger? Toughness? Meanness? Their brain or their brawn?
27. Do they lead from their heart or their head or their muscle?
28. Are they impetuous? Practical? Do they go for the spontaneous moment or do they plan it all out?
29. What are their prized possessions—what would they take with them in their home was on fire?
30. What would you find in their pockets or purse each day?
31. What is their greatest fear?
32. What is their biggest wish?
33. What desire or want or goal drives them through the whole play?
34. If this character were a(n)...

~Animal	~Sound
~Color	~Taste
~Food	~Texture
~Drink	~Rhythm
~Smell	

What would they be? And WHY?

35. And finally, the most fun question: If this character had a theme song, what would song would it be and WHY?