

NaNoWriMo 2015: Creating Characters

When creating characters, it's important to ensure that they aren't two dimensional. They need a back story, a purpose and an identity. You need to ensure that each character you create possesses all of these features, whether they are the protagonist, antagonist or a supporting character, otherwise they become flat and unbelievable.

Character Types

Protagonist: the protagonist is the leading character in your story. They will normally be working towards a goal or going on a journey of some sort throughout your narrative.

Antagonist: the antagonist is the character who is disrupting the protagonist's journey and inhibiting them from reaching their goals. Antagonists do not necessarily need to be presented in a negative light.

Supporting characters: these characters often support the protagonist in reaching their goal. They all have their own identity and story and though they are not the main focus of the story, they add depth to the story as a whole.

Character Development Exercises (do as many exercises as you would like)

- Create a list for your character including 5 true statements, 5 false statements, 1 event that happened in their childhood and 3 events that have not happened to them
- Using this information, create a back story for your character
- Add a contradictory trait within your description
- Write descriptions of your character from the perspective of themselves, a close friend and a stranger
- Look around the room and pick 5 inanimate objects, list their qualities and use these to help you create a new character (animate or inanimate)
- Give your character an environment. Describe what could be found on their desk or bedside table. Within this description, explore aspects of your character