

Class 2: Create Your Characters

Slide 1: Welcome

Teacher Notes

- Welcome students to the class.
- Introduce yourself.
- Explain to them that they will be creating characters for their stories.

Sample script: Hello guys, welcome to our second class. Today we will begin to work on your characters.

Slide 2: Class Objectives

Teacher Notes

- Present the PPT, or have a student read it.
- Explain the term “supporting characters " if needed.

Sample script: I hope you have done your homework, since that would be really helpful for this class. Today, we will dig deeper and get an all around feel towards your characters. Everyone understand the difference between a main character and supporting characters?

What about Protagonist and Antagonist? There could be more than one main character, and he doesn’t have to be the good guy either!

So in the little red riding hood, Little red riding hood is..... the protagonist, and the wolf is the antagonist, and both of them are main characters.

Slide 3: Why Characters Matter?

Teacher Notes

- Explain the importance of Characters.
- Books and Movies all follow the actions of Characters.

- Explain how the setting and character's appearance and personality relate.

Sample Script: So in all the books and movies we watch, we simply follow the actions and decisions the characters do and make. What the characters do is an action movie, what the character sees in a horror movie, and how the character feels in a romance movie. These are all things people look for when watching or reading movies and books. Imagine a movie without a character, just places where not much really happens.

Slide 4: Class Activity "Let's design our characters!" (Worksheet)

Teacher Notes

- Ask students to start by coming up with names for their characters.
- Explain the importance of being detailed on little things about the character.
- Ask the students to complete the worksheet.

Sample Script: Ok everyone, start filling out the worksheet that's in front of you!
Think about his name, and whether he is a person, an animal, or even a monster or an alien. How old is he? Is he an adult or a child? If he tall or short? Think about his profession, is he a teacher, lawyer, for a kid in school? Think about his outfit/ or appearance, is he a nerd or a jock? What about his personality, if he quiet or loud? Is he friendly or cold?
The more details you have about the character, the easier and consistent he will be as you write about him.

Slide 5: Supporting Characters

Teacher Notes

- Explain the importance of "Supporting Characters" make the student understand they are often needed to make the story feel whole and complete.
- Ask students for classical supporting characters in their favorite movies or books.
- Suggestion: Supporting characters are often there for a special reason, they often have their own distinct characteristics, or purpose.

Sample Script: Aside from main characters, there are also supporting characters. They are often important to fill the gaps in a more complex or complete story. Think about the supporting characters in your favorite books and movies! What's your favorite movie? ……. oh ok, give me a supporting actor in that movie! Supporting characters are often there for a purpose, to add a new dynamic to the story, for example Professor Snipe in Harry Potter. Very cold, dark, quiet, unpredictable. He added a lot of curiosity and imbalance to the story. Another example, hmm say Aragorn's girl from The lord of the rings. Arwin? The elf princess… Beautiful, powerful, willing to give up her immortality for Aragorn. She isn't on screen often, but she is there to fulfill Aragorns life, and for us to know him in a more complete manner.

Slide 6: Antagonist/Villain

Teacher Notes

- Go over the definition of the word “Antagonist”.
- Let the student know that even though the protagonist is often a being, a person, an animal, a monster...etc.. but an antagonist could be anything that challenges the protagonist. Including weather, disease, or social issues as a whole!
- Remind the students to take their time with this one, as this is where it differentiates between an average story vs a great one.
- There are often times a lot more selections for a bad guy than a good guy.

Sample Script: Ok, can anyone give me the definition of this word? “Antagonist” ……. Yes it is the opposite of the word protagonist which is often the main character in the story.

For example, Harry Potter is the protagonist and Voldemort is the antagonist. In the Lion King, Simba is the protagonist, Scar would be the Antagonist. The antagonist doesn’t have to be a person, animal, or thing either, it could be for example a disease. If could be a story about a person fighting cancer, in that regard, Cancer would be the Antagonist. Social issues, disease, weather, anything the protagonist has to deal with really.

Let’s start writing down some detailed ideas for your protagonist! Remember there are many different shades of Evil. Aside from just mean, ugly, and evil. Also consider shady, sneaky, cruel, heartless, shameless, unpredictable etc……

Slide 7: Make your character come to life!

Teacher Notes

- Have the students start creating a dialog on his worksheet.
- Make sure to set the tone of the characters based on his charateristics, appearance, and setting.
- It could be between the protagonist and the antagonist, or either one of them with someone else….

Sample Script: On the bottom of your work sheets, start writing down a dialog between your main characters, or a main character and a supporting character! Think about the tone you are setting based on the information you have chosen for them! Make the reader feel his personality! During this exercise, double check and get a feel for your main character, make sure you are happy with what you have created, and make adjustments accordingly if needed!

Slide 8: Share and Discuss

Teacher Notes:

- Have each student go over the dialog he has created, and share his idea with a student sitting next to him.
- Have the other student make an educated guess about your character based on the dialog!
- Help each other with their characters!

Sample Script: Now handover your dialog to the person next to you, have him guess the appearance, and characteristics of your character based on your dialog, and see if it is close to what you had in mind. Give each other feedbacks! Positive ones/ Helpful ones only!

Slide 9: Homework

Teacher Notes:

- Write down a detailed description about your Main Characters/Supporting Characters. (2 characters total)
- Explain to the students to be as detailed as possible on every aspect!

Sample Script: Ok class, here is your homework! Write 100-200 words describing 2 characters in your story!

Slide 10: Thank you