

21W.755, Writing and Reading Short Stories (Fall 2006)  
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Session 7: Character Creation/Sketch

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EXERCISE:

Live with your Character.

As you build a character (or several characters) you should be able to see them and answer questions about them. As you take action and make choices during the day, do the same with your character.

You get dressed—what does your character put on?

You go to the library or the lab—where does the character go?

You play frisbee—does your character play any sports? What does your character do for fun? To play? Who does s/he play with?

You turn on your MP3 player. What kind of music does your character like? Listen to?

What songs does your character have on his/her player?

At all meals—choose your own food and then ask your character(s) what THEY would eat from what is available.

What has the character got in his or her pockets? Book bag?

What is important is NOT what the character did, but what you learned about what you *know* about the character

In Class exercise for Class #7

Bring in a character sketch. Include not only your observations and what you know, but look for physical details. If you can find a picture in a magazine that looks like your character, cut it out (if this is reasonable, you own the magazine) and include it. Or, if you can draw, sketch out what the character looks like. What clothes/furniture/food/music/movies/etc.

In class, you will introduce your character. Then each person will ask random questions.

Examples:

What is her favorite color?

When did he wake up this morning?

Cross at the corner or jay-walk?

Brand of toothpaste?

Answer each question immediately, spontaneously. If you have a good sense of the character you should be able to do this even when the question is unexpected.