

icanwrite Screenplays

CRAFTING
A
COMPELLING
CHARACTER



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CRAFTING A COMPELLING CHARACTER

- o We learned in chapter three and four about compelling characters and the common factors necessary to create a compelling character.
- o The next question though is ‘How’ do you create this character? Sure, a writer’s imagination is always on overdrive as we screw in one behavioural trait, vice or strength on top the other but is there a better way to craft a character? There is!

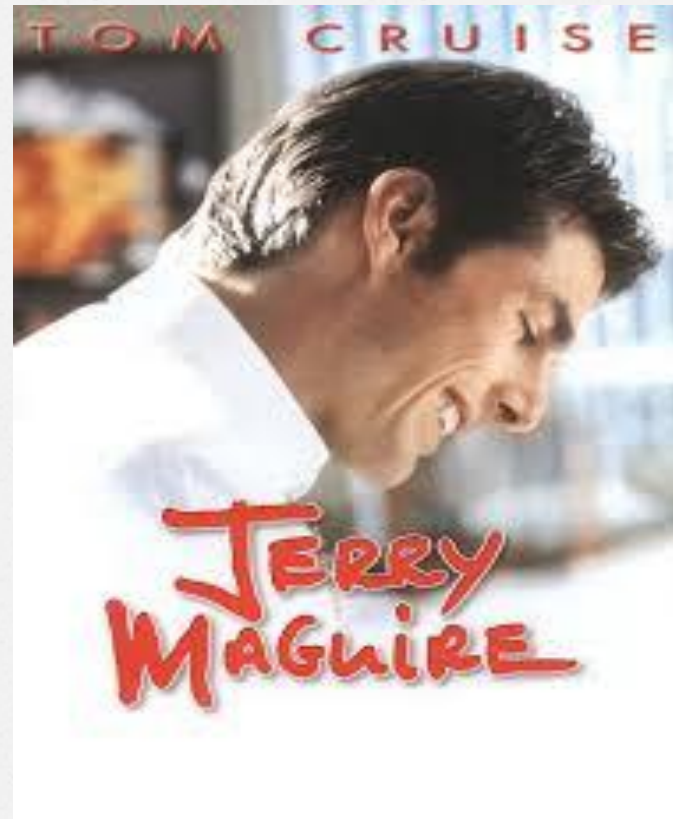
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT



o Imagine yourself as the creator of a character in a story. The character exists because you have breathed life into him/her but before you give them that life-giving kiss, you must ensure that every bit of their persona is properly designed. Just like a genetics Engineer, you have the amazing liberty to tweak their DNA- add a little flaw here and a little strength there.

WHO IS YOUR CHARACTER?

- o You must **KNOW** your character. Who is s/he? What does s/he like? What kind of education did s/he have? What are her aspirations? Does s/he have a great job? Would s/he like to get married? Jerry Maguire in the eponymous movie is a great example of a well-thought out character.



CREATING A CHARACTER MOODBOARD



WHAT IS IT?

- o A character moodboard is a collection of pictures, sounds and even videos that describe your character at first glance. A **mood board** is a type of collage consisting of images, text, and samples of objects in a composition.

o A character moodboard helps you create a backstory for your character. To create your moodboard, it helps to feed off real people because real life personalities make the best characters.

WE LEARN TO WRITE BY WRITING!

- o Create a character moodboard for any **character from your story** with the following:

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- o a. First name.
- o b. Nickname
- o c. Most resembles...
- o d. Did you like/hate school?
- o e. Dislikes
- o f. Likes
- o g. Best colour
- o h. Favourite sound
- o i. Favourite book
- o j. Favourite food

- o k. Favourite heroines or heroes in fiction/movies.
- o l. Favourite song and why?
- o m. Most valued trait in friends
- o n. Most overused phrase?
- o o. If you could have one superpower what would it be?
- o p. What is your definition of joy/happiness?
- o q. Your most treasured moment?
- o r. Most treasured possession?
- o s. What kind of climate do you prefer?
- o t. What part of the world would you choose to live in?
- o u. If you had to change anything about yourself?
- o v. Greatest fear
- o w. Greatest regret
- o x. Flaws or vices
- o y. Aspiration?
- o z. When is it okay to lie?

#UNSTOPPABLEJENNIE'S TIP

- o Characters are better rounded when the author/screenwriter is well acquainted with a backstory even if the audience never gets to find out those little bits about the characters.
- o Feed off the human relationships you have in creating these character boards.
- o For moodboard templates, click [here](#).

**WE LOOK
FORWARD
TO RECEIVING
YOUR
WRITEWORK AND
QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE
LESSONS IN THIS
SECTION.**

THANK YOU!

