

Questions and Considerations When Creating Characters

Angela Ackerman (reprinted with permission)

- Do the characters have a similar attitude toward most things, or do they conflict?
- Do they share the same beliefs or stand far apart on certain issues?
- What common bonds exist between these characters—do they share a history (good or bad), beliefs, common struggles, or needs?
- Do they have certain emotional triggers that will make them blind to something, become obsessive (fight), or cause them to back away in avoidance (flight)?
- Are there conflicting loyalties at work between these characters that might come into play?
- Do they have similar backgrounds and experiences, or are they different?
- Do the characters have the same goals, competing goals, or conflicting goals?
- Do the characters have needs or desires that converge or differ?
- Are their moral codes close to the same, or do they each have a different line in the sand?

Whether your characters are working toward the same goal or not, here are some interpersonal areas of friction you might like to explore:

- Conflicting attitudes
- Respect that doesn't flow both ways
- Conflicting beliefs
- An imbalance of power or authority
- Opposing values
- Jealousy or envy
- Different risk thresholds
- Differing moral lines
- Conflicting motivations
- Sexual friction
- Secrets involving shame or guilt
- Dysfunctional communication
- Conflicting priorities
- Different expectations