

Character Questions to Ask When Populating Your Story

Who is your protagonist? (Main character of the story) & What is his or her goal?

Who is the main antagonist, the one who will try hardest to oppose your main character's goal throughout the story and why? Is this antagonist a villain?

Does your protagonist have a mentor/role model or someone who serves as a "voice of reason?"

Does your protagonist have a romantic love interest?

Does your protagonist have a sidekick or best friend?

Does your antagonist have a sidekick or best friend or group of minions?

Which characters support your protagonist?

Which characters hinder or cast doubt on your protagonist as he or she strives to achieve his/her goal?

(Sometimes the sidekick or best friend or loving family members can hinder the protagonist without meaning to. This character may make a mistake, or get kidnapped by the villain, forcing the protagonist to make hard choices.)

Every character should have a purpose for being included in the story. A smaller cast should fulfill multiple roles and bring greater depth and meaning to the journey the protagonist is undertaking.

Ask each sub-character:

What is their purpose for being in the story?

Can you combine roles to make them more important?

Example: Instead of having a lawyer and a fisherman, can you have a lawyer who fishes? Can he or she also be a jester?

How will this sub-character be affected or changed by the outcome of your protagonist's journey? Do some of the antagonist's minions have a change of heart? Does the success of the protagonist also serve to inspire others and give them hope?

Which characters, situations, or events could challenge or test the protagonist's abilities or **strengths**?

Which characters, situations, or events could aggravate, inflame, test, or expose the protagonist's vulnerabilities or **weaknesses**?

How will the antagonist be tested?

What does your protagonist need to learn or gain the skill to do in order to be successful?

How will this insight / wisdom or skill help him or her overcome the opposition/antagonist when face to face at the climax of the story?