

Character Backstory Template PDF for Writers

This template comes from my writing guide, **Fantastic Characters and How to Write Them**.

You can buy the complete book here: PSHoffman.com/fantastic-characters

14 Questions to Write a Better Backstory

Answer as many as you need to start writing (I strongly suggest you answer 1-7 and 12 at the least).

Historical Details

1. Where is your character from?
2. Who gave your character their name?
3. What was unusual about their upbringing, compared to the average person in your world?
4. What hardships did they face while becoming who they are now?
5. What is the worst thing that ever happened to your character?
6. What is the best thing to ever happen to your character?

Personality

7. How did these defining moments shape their primary motivation?
8. Did a trait or flaw in your character lead to one of these defining moments? How?
9. Did your character earn a new trait or flaw from these defining moments?
10. What will they NOT talk about now?
11. What do they need to talk about eventually?

Plotting and Structure

12. What questions do you want readers to ask about your character?
13. Which pieces of backstory will you give in your story?
14. Which pieces of backstory will you only hint at in your story?

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Want to Keep Growing as a Writer?

Get a copy of the **Fantastic Characters Workbook**:

PSHoffman.com/fantastic-characters

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