

Character Creation 101

☐ Basics

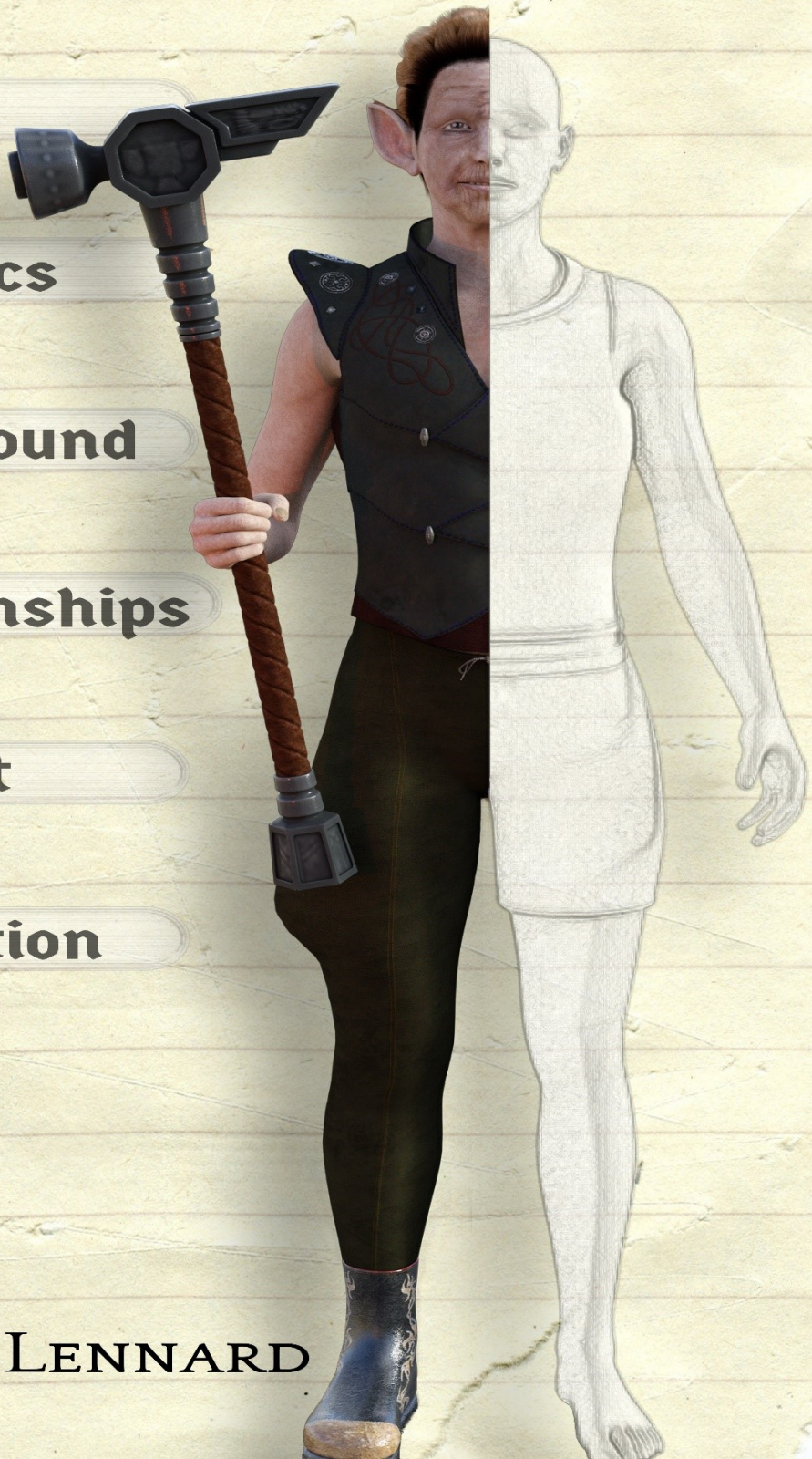
☐ Statistics

☐ Background

☐ Relationships

☐ Mindset

☐ Motivation



WITH R. LENNARD

Basics

Name

Age

Place of birth

Gender

Birthday

Species

Nationality

Current location

Home address

People living with

Education

Occupation

Main flaw

Clan

Guild affiliation

Statistics

Agility

Charisma

General health

Intelligence

Strength

Wisdom

(Allocate: 1 x High; 1 x Above Average; 2 x Average, 1 x Below Average and 1 x Low)

Nickname/s

Skills

Fighting:

Hand to hand

Short range

Mid-range

Long range

Weapons proficiency:

Short range

Mid-range

Long range

Equipment

Whatever is in pockets, bags, or carried with your character

Spells

Magic scores:

_____	<div></div>	_____	<div></div>
_____	<div></div>	_____	<div></div>

Technology

Features and traits:

Fighter features

Experienced; Novice; Adaptive; Physical additions

Species Traits

Known Languages

Brief Bio

Give a brief introduction to your character

Appearance

Height Build

Eye colour Hair colour

Distinguishing features

Physical flaws
Moles; Scars; Birthmarks; Freckles

Grooming
Dishevelled; Untidy but clean; Smart; Super put together

Preferred outfits:

Casual

School/Work

Night out

To bed

Shoes

Glasses Accessories

Distinguishing mannerisms

Health
Chronic illnesses; Ongoing health issues; Physical disability

Gait
How do they walk? Confident; Fast; Lazy stroll; Distracted; Small quick steps

Describe their smile

Posture

Stiff – military; Casual and relaxed; Slouching; Tired

They have a resting

face

Grumpy; Tired; Neutral; Sad; Angel; Confused

Possible additions for non-human species

Number of Eyes

Number of Arms

Number of Legs

Method of Breathing

Antenna

Horns

Tail

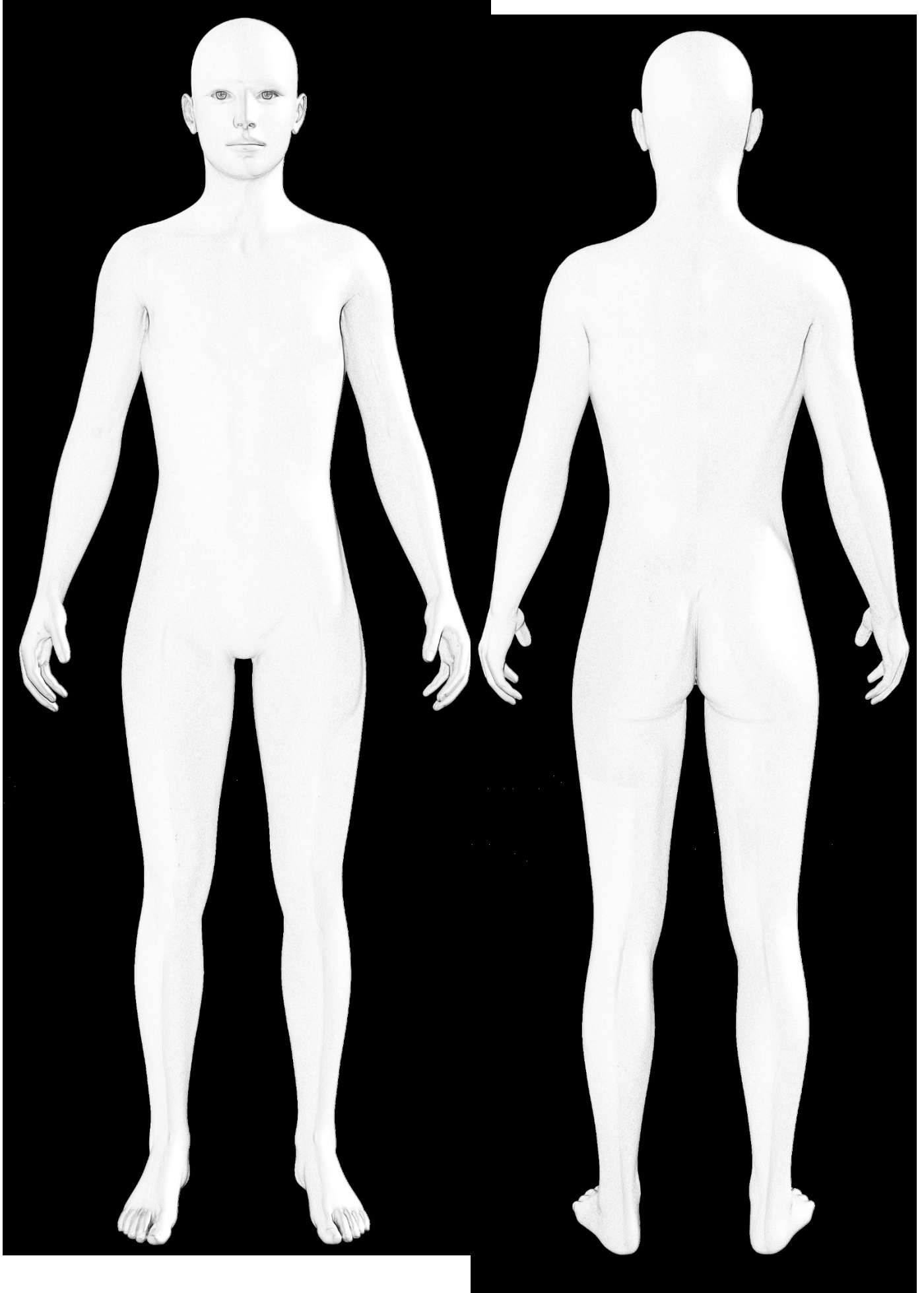
Wings

Spines

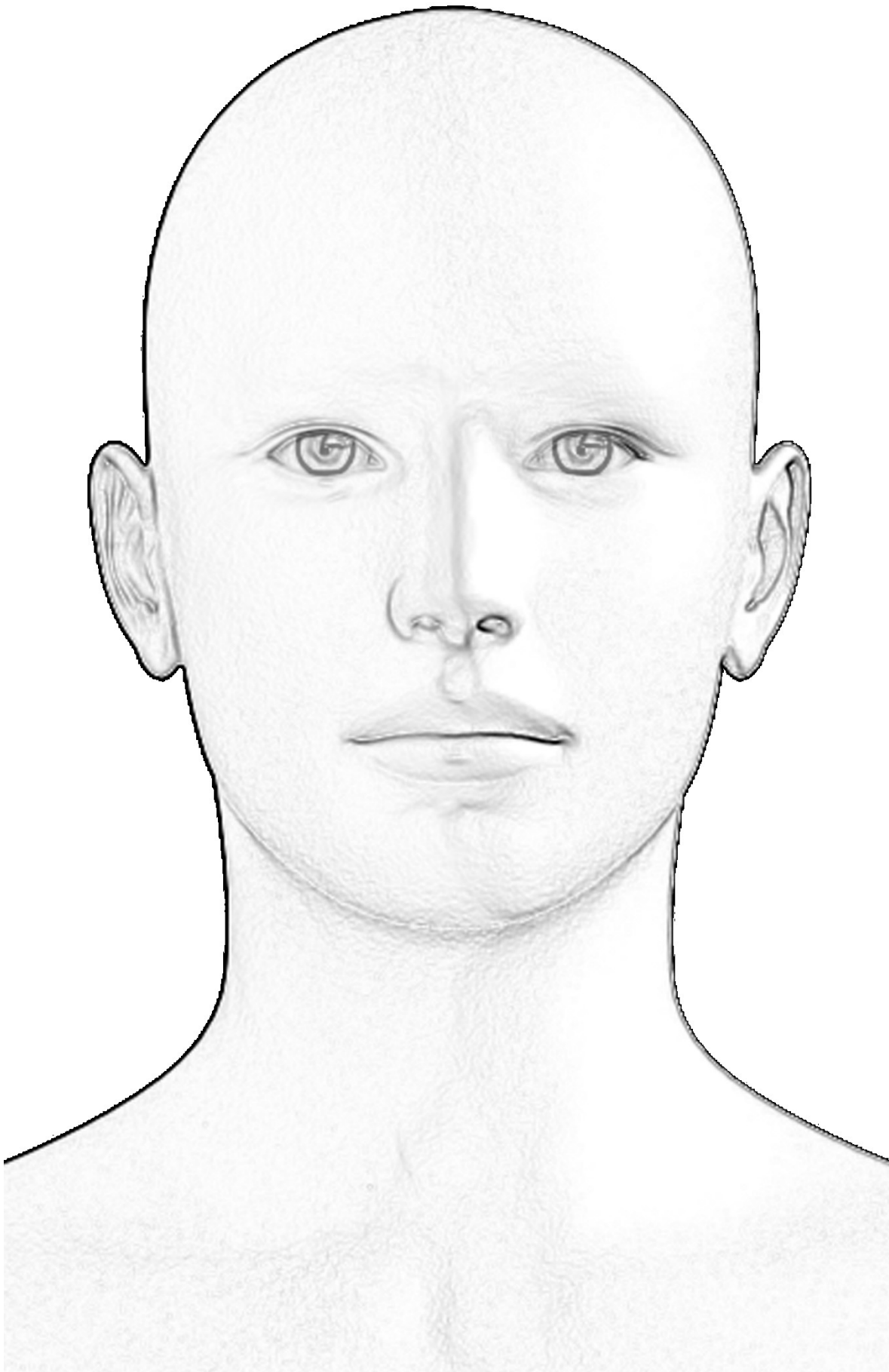
Scales

Tentacles

Distinguishing marks:



Distinguishing marks:



Background

Hometown

Type of childhood

Sheltered; Neglected; Free range; Spoiled

Education:

Primary School

High School

Higher Education

Were they involved in organizations/clubs at school?

Sports; Debate; Gay/Straight alliance; Model UN; Drama; Choir; Band

At Graduation, they were named 'Most Likely to:'

Jobs:

Dream job as a child? Why?

What would be on their resume?

Who were their role models growing up?

Greatest regret

Childhood hobbies

Favourite place to be as a child

If they could change one thing from their past, what would it be? Why?

Major turning points in childhood:

Earliest memory

Saddest memory

Happiest memory

Clearer memory

What skeletons are in their closet?

Three adjectives to describe them as a child:

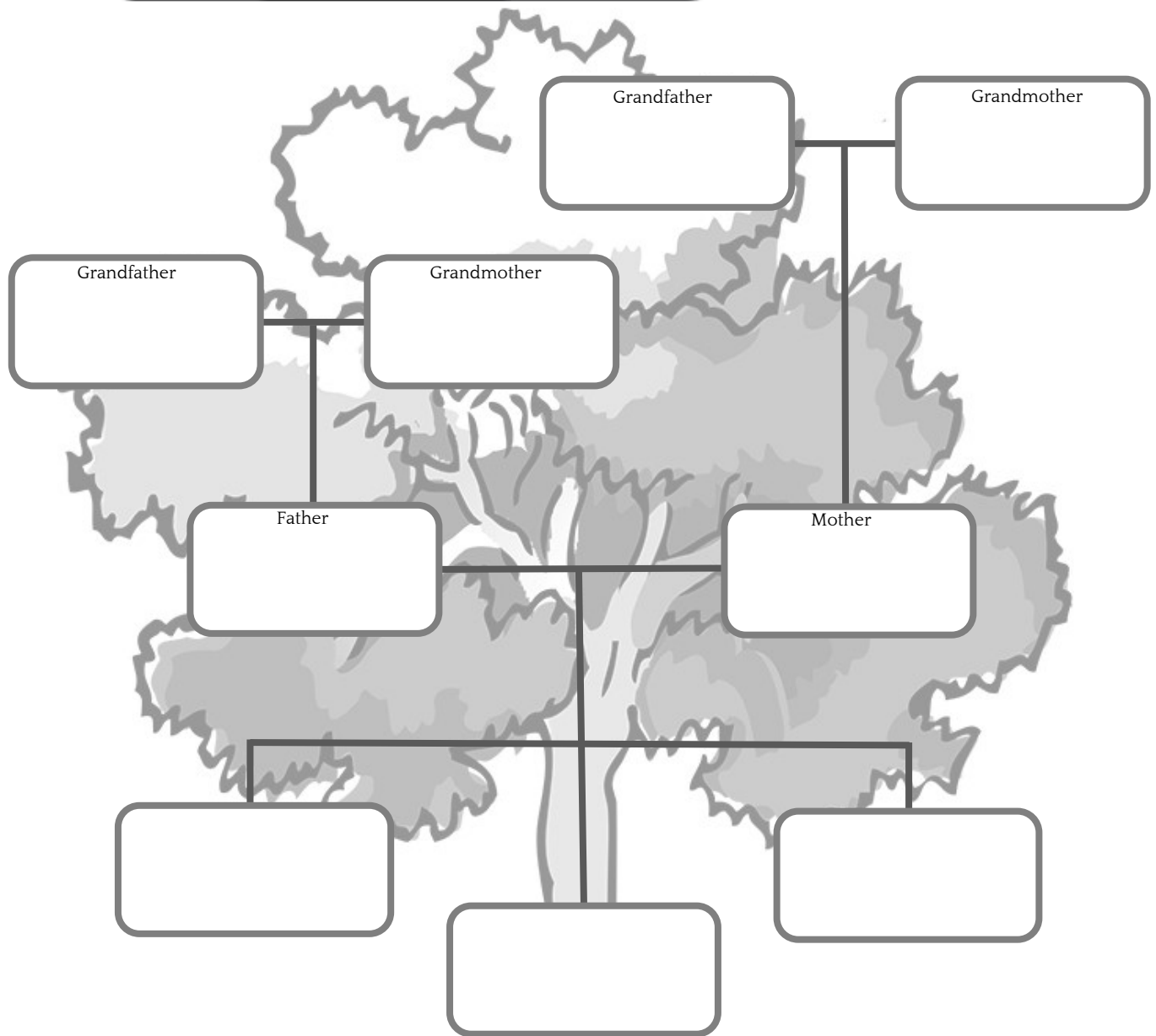
What advice would they give to their younger self?

Criminal record

Places they've been

Things they've done

Relationships



Father:

Age (if living)

Occupation

Relationship with character

Mother:

Age (if living)

Occupation

Relationship with character

Siblings:

How many?

Name

Age (if living)

Occupation

Relationship with character

Name

Age (if living)

Occupation

Relationship with character

Children (if applicable):

How many?

Name

Age (if living)

Occupation

Relationship with character

Name

Age (if living)

Occupation

Relationship with character

Name

Age (if living)

Occupation

Relationship with character

Extended family:

Father's side:

Grandparents

Uncles and Aunts

Cousins

Other

Mother's side:

Grandparents

Uncles and Aunts

Cousins**Other****Family's economic status**

Poor; Struggling; Well-off; Rich; Obscenely rich

How often do they see their family in a year?**External Relationships:****Best friends? Describe them****Other significant friends****Enemies? Describe them****What's their role in a group dynamic?**

Leader; Parent; Joker; Mooch; Hyper

How are they perceived by ...

Strangers in the street?

Acquaintances at work/school functions?

Colleagues in the office?

Authority figures?

Friends in their friend circle?

Children?

Opposite sex?

Extended family – father's side?

Extended family – mother's side?

Who do they depend on for...

Practical advice?

Mentoring?

A wingman?

Emotional support?

Moral support?

Do they have a significant other?

Name

Age (if living)

Occupation

Relationship with character

Describe them

How many people would attend their funeral?

Pets:

Name

Type

Age

Relationship with character

Name

Type

Age

Relationship with character

Name

Type

Age

Relationship with character

Name

Type

Age

Relationship with character

Communication

Style of speech

Educated; Lots of slang; Monotonal; Super quiet

Tempo

Rapid; Slow; Measured; Drawl

Pitch

Melodious; Gravelly; Deep; High

Do they have an accent?

No; Yes – what type?

Speech impediments

Slur; Lisp

Distinguishing speech 'tics'

Preferred curse words

Catchphrases

Gesturing

When agitated or eager; Compulsive 'hand-talker'; To make a point; Doesn't gesture

Level of eye contact

Stares constantly; Creepy; Fleeting glances; Rarely meets other's eyes

Are they literate?

☐ Yes☐ No

Handwriting

Sloppy; Neat; Careful; Unintelligible

Body Language

Open; Closed; Impatient; Guarded; Anxious; Weary

Preferred method of communication?

Face to face; Letter; Email; Text

What social media platforms are they on?

☐ Facebook

☐ Instagram

☐ Reddit

☐ Snapchat

☐ TikTok

☐ Tumbler

☐ Twitter

☐ YouTube

☐ _____

How would they use their social media platforms?

How quickly do they respond to emails?

Emotions

How easily can others read their emotions?

What makes them laugh?

What makes them cry?

Mindset

Are they:

☐ **Street-smart**

☐ **Book-smart**

☐ **Optimistic**

☐ **Pessimistic**

☐ **Introverted**

☐ **Extroverted**

Mental health

Neurotypical or Neurodivergent

Flaws:

Minor flaws

Major flaws

Biggest strength

Biggest fear

Biggest weakness

Biggest accomplishment

Hidden talents

Insecurities

What do they want to accomplish?

What is their idea of perfect happiness?

Favourite:

Animal

Band/Song

Book

Colour

Drink

Food

Movie

Place

Quote

TV show

List the last 6 books they've read

List the last 6 songs they've listened to

Which fictional world would they most wish to visit?

What secrets do they keep?

What are they most afraid of people finding out?

What are they reluctant to tell people?

How do they approach...

Power

Ambition

Love

Change

What superstitions do they hold?

Most treasured possession

What (or who) bores them?

What makes them angry?

What do they look for in a person?

How strong is their moral compass?

When, specifically, are they willing to compromise their morals?

If they didn't have to sleep, what would they do with the extra time?

What do they do on rainy days?

What are their pet peeves?

Hobbies

If they won the lottery, what would they do?

Name ten things on your character's bucket list

What's the best compliment they've ever received?

Do they push the elevator button more than once?

☐ Yes

☐ No

What would completely break them?

What is the best thing in their life?

What is the worst thing in their life?

What seemingly insignificant memories stuck with them?

What or who do they pretend to care about?

Are they organised or disorganised?

What does their bedroom look like?

What does their desk look like?

Where do they go to unwind?

What do they do to unwind?

What unfinished business do they have?

Do they want to be remembered? What for?

What would they want their tombstone to say?

Motivation

Story goal:

What is their goal?

What are they willing to risk to achieve their goal?

What would happen if they simply can't achieve their goal?

What is their specific motivation?

Internal conflict:

Will they also face an external conflict? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What internal conflict will your protagonist face?

How will the internal and external mirror each other?

How will the conflict/s affect the pursuit of their goals?

External conflict:

Will they also face an internal conflict? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What external conflict will your protagonist face?

How will the conflict/s affect the pursuit of their goals?

Character Arc:

What kind of person are they at the start of the story?

What kind of person are they at the end of the story?

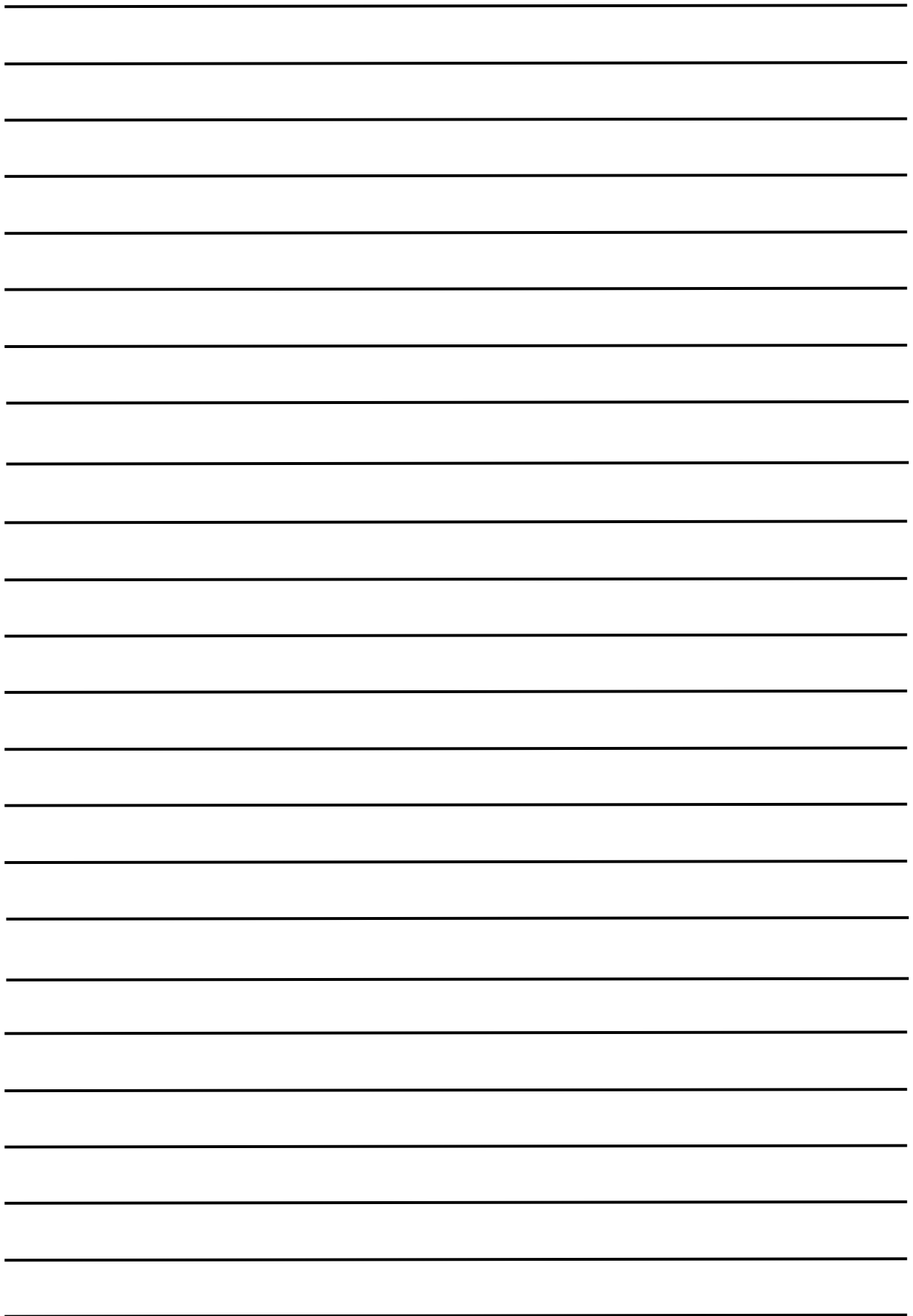
How much will they change?

What inspires their change?

Is the change for the better or for the worse?

Do they change the people around them?

Do they change the world around them?



Character Quirks

Taken from:

https://blog.reedsy.com/character-quirks/?utm_source=characterprofile&utm_campaign=contentupgrade&utm_medium=followup3

Physical

- Unique eye or hair colour
- Extremely short or tall
- Some discerning physical mark
- Wears unusual glasses
- Has braces and headgear
- Large feet – may mean they're clumsy
- Bites their nails/lips
- Chews on their hair
- Constantly fidgeting
- Acne, eczema, or other skin problems
- Many tattoos or piercings
- Often sick or has allergies (constantly sniffing/blowing their nose)
- Talks very loudly or quietly
- Says everything like it's a question
- Terrible breath – may be a coffee drinker
- Gets sweaty easily (especially when nervous)
- Unusually hairy arms or legs
- Very long painted nails
- Always wears full makeup
- Has a stutter or other speech impediment
- Often tucks their hair behind their ears
- Constantly chews gum
- Always picking their teeth
- Smokes and has a raspy voice
- Breathes heavily or snores
- Is extremely muscular
- Walks very slowly or quickly
- Left-handed or ambidextrous
- Constantly scratching themselves
- Has some noticeable physical tic, like a twitch
- Always wears a distinct item of clothing or accessory – a favourite pair of socks, a lucky jersey, or even a particular shade of lipstick

Personality

- Very introverted, quiet, and reserved, keeps to themselves
- Highly extroverted, loves socializing and meeting new people
- Mega control freak who has to have everything their way
- Neat freak (often coincides with control freak)
- Total slob who never knows where anything is
- Super stubborn and will never admit when they're wrong
- Brutally honest and can't lie to save their life
- Extremely judgmental of other people
- Short-tempered, especially when irritated

- Always patient, even when frustrated
- Hilarious or odd sense of humour
- Very hard to make them laugh
- Loves to eat and is obsessed with food
- Loves to drink and is constantly partying
- Constantly complains about everything
- Extremely loyal and will do anything for their friends/family
- Adventurous and willing to try anything
- Cautious and careful no matter what
- Energetic, hardly ever needs to rest
- Sleeps all the time and still gets tired during the day
- Horrible sense of direction and constantly gets lost
- Overachiever who loves school/structure
- Really modest and won't ever brag about themselves
- Extremely emotional and will cry at the drop of a hat
- Stoic and detached, rarely shows emotion
- Wildcard whose behaviour is unpredictable, even to their friends
- Notoriously two-faced and will betray anyone
- Charismatic and can convince anyone to do their bidding
- Very proper and always polite to others
- Dates tons of people and has a new boyfriend or girlfriend every week
- Obsessive personality – whether it's a TV show, brand, musical artist, or even another person, they'll get attached and think/talk about it constantly

Strengths/talents:

- Fantastic cook or baker
- Skilled musician (piano, guitar, violin, etc.)
- Artistic talent (drawing, painting, sculpting, etc.)
- Model athlete (football, hockey, swimming, etc.)
- Great at voices/ventriloquy
- Can do sleight-of-hand – may be a pickpocket
- Speaks multiple languages, even obscure ones
- Knows everything about history
- Mathematical or scientific genius
- Brilliant coder and can hack into any database
- Skilled mechanical inventor
- Can build or put together anything
- Super-quick logical reasoning
- Exceptional memory/genius IQ (several of the above might fall under this one)
- Special connection with animals
- Super empathetic and understanding of other people
- Extremely fast runner
- Contortionist (can twist their body into any shape)
- Psychic talent (can predict the future)
- Amazing mechanic
- Super strength, flying, invisibility or other superpowers
- Unusually high tolerance for pain

- Survival skills like hunting and fishing
- Quick reflexes, acts fast in a crisis
- Brave and fearless, not scared of anything
- Able to talk their way out of any trouble/invent stories on the fly

Weaknesses/negative traits:

- Awful driver
- Always running late
- Illegible handwriting
- Terrible at public speaking
- Socially awkward – hard for them to make friends
- Has tons of credit card debt from online shopping
- Self-destructive and always wants what's worst for them
- Gets blackout drunk every time they go out
- Extremely conceited or arrogant
- Compulsive liar
- Manipulative of friends
- Gets jealous over nothing
- Often mean for no reason
- Unbelievably self-centred
- Extremely passive-aggressive
- Arachnophobia (irrational fear of spiders)
- Coulrophobia (irrational fear of clowns)
- Agoraphobia (irrational fear of leaving the house)
- Pantophobia (fear of everything)

Miscellaneous

- Dresses all in one colour
- Bedroom is decorated exactly like a Pinterest picture
- Won't drink still water, only sparkling
- Refuses to use headphones and blasts their music in public
- Always dresses too nicely for the occasion
- Walks around barefoot, even in stores and other public places
- Hates being inside, sleeps and goes to the bathroom outdoors
- Can't help but look in every mirror they pass
- Wears a small plastic backpack everywhere
- Preps their meals three weeks in advance
- Drinks shots of espresso all day long
- Sings opera in the shower
- Makes their own (terrible) abstract art and hangs it on their walls
- Gets super excited about Christmas and then really depressed in January
- Refuses to wear glasses even though they need them
- Carries around a secret teddy bear
- Has been wearing the same friendship bracelet for three years
- Fastidiously lint-rolls all their clothing
- Will a shop or restaurant if someone walks in with a baby
- Extremely superstitious (knocks on wood, avoids the number 13, etc.)

- Drops everything other people ask them to hold
- Likes to go out dancing by themselves
- Prefers to have the lights off or dimmed at all times
- Only reads books written before 1900
- Only watches movies that get really bad reviews
- Always wears multiple sweaters on top of each other
- Won't eat anything that doesn't have bread (at least on the side)
- Thinks they're a time-traveller from the medieval era
- Gives friends and family excellent homemade presents
- Leaves the office last every day so they can push all the chairs in
- Hates jagged numbers (always fills their gas tank to the dollar, sends emails on the hour, etc.)
- Has an imaginary friend they still talk to, even in adulthood
- Owns a lizard that they try and use as a guard dog
- Listens exclusively to Britney Spears
- Leaves little notes in library books for future readers
- Uses tissues to hold onto poles on public transportation
- Wears their hair in Princess Leia buns
- Never goes a day without talking to their mom
- Hums "In the Hall of the Mountain King" when they get stressed
- Clucks their tongue while walking, so they sound like a horse
- Quotes Pulp Fiction all the time
- Loves hanging out in completely empty places
- Convinced they're going to die in a freak accident
- Grows all their own food in their vegetable garden
- Never pays for train or bus tickets
- Can recite Shakespearean sonnets
- Recycles and eats vegetarian, but only out of guilt
- Has a "vision board" posted on their ceiling
- Loves the beach but hates swimming
- Flicks people in the forehead when they get annoyed
- Laughs at everything, even bad jokes
- Curates a great Instagram feed of street art

Flaws

Adapted from: <https://writerswrite.co.za/123-ideas-for-character-flaws/>

- Absent-minded
- Abusive
- Addict
- Aimless
- Alcoholic
- Anxious
- Arrogant
- Audacious
- Bad Habit
- Bigmouth
- Bigot
- Blunt
- Bold
- Callous
- Childish
- Complex
- Cruel
- Cursed
- Dependent
- Deranged
- Dishonest
- Disloyal
- Disorder
- Disturbed
- Dubious
- Dyslexic
- Egotistical
- Envious
- Erratic
- Fanatical
- Fickle
- Fierce
- Finicky
- Fixated
- Flirt
- Gluttonous
- Gruff
- Gullible
- Hard
- Hedonistic
- Hoity-toity
- Humourless
- Hypocritical
- Idealist
- Idiotic
- Ignorant
- Illiterate
- Immature
- Impatient
- Impious
- Impish
- Incompetent
- Indecisive
- Indifferent
- Infamy
- Intolerant
- Judgemental
- Klutz
- Lazy
- Lewd
- Liar
- Lustful
- Masochist
- Meddlesome
- Meek
- Naïve
- Nervous
- Non-violent
- Nosey
- Obsessive
- Oppressor
- Overambitious
- Overconfident
- Overemotional
- Overprotective
- Overzealous
- Pacifist
- Paranoid
- Peevish
- Perfectionist
- Pessimist
- Pest
- Phobic
- Practical
- Predictable
- Proud
- Rebellious
- Reckless
- Remorseless
- Rigorous
- Sadist
- Sarcastic
- Sceptic
- Seducer
- Selfish
- Self-Martyr
- Self-righteous
- Senile
- Shallow
- Smart Ass
- Soft-hearted
- Solemn
- Spineless
- Spiteful
- Spoiled
- Squeamish
- Stubborn
- Superstitious
- Tactless
- Temperamental
- Theatrical
- Timid
- Tongue-tied
- Troublemaker
- Unlucky
- Unpredictable
- Untrustworthy
- Vain
- Weak-willed
- Withdrawn
- Zealous

Skills

Taken from <http://rpgdesignwiki.wikidot.com/skill>

- Acrobatics
- Alchemy
- Anatomy
- Ancient History
- Ancient Language
- Animal Call
- Animal Handling
- Animal Lore
- Animal Training
- Anthropology
- Appraising
- Arcane Lore
- Armorer
- Artistry
- Astrology
- Balancing
- Barter
- Berserk
- Blackmail
- Blacksmith
- Blind Fighting
- Bluff
- Boating
- Body Language
- Boxing
- Breath Control
- Brewing
- Bribe
- Bullfighting
- Calligraphy
- Camouflage
- Camping
- Carpentry
- Cartography
- Climbing
- Cobbling
- Computer Operation
- Concealment
- Contortion
- Cooking
- Counterfeiting
- Cryptography
- Dancing
- Dead Language
- Deceit
- Demolition
- Detect Lie
- Detect Lie
- Detect Traps
- Detect Vice
- Diagnosis
- Diplomacy
- Disarm Opponent
- Disarm Traps
- Disguise
- Double-Handed Combat
- Driving
- Electronics
- Empathy
- Enchanting
- Engineering
- Escape
- Etiquette
- Falconry
- Farming
- Fencing
- Fire Breathing
- Fire-Making
- First Aid
- Fishing
- Fletcher
- Flirting
- Folklore
- Fortune Telling
- Gambling
- General Knowledge
- Gesture
- Gibberish
- Gymnastics
- Hacking
- Hagglng
- Healing
- Heraldry
- Herbalism
- Herding
- Hibernate
- Hide (In Shadows)
- Hunting
- Hypnotism
- Impersonation
- Interrogation
- Intimidation
- Investigation
- Jargon
- Juggling
- Jumping
- Language
- Lasso
- Leather Working
- Lifting
- Literacy
- Marksman
- Mechanics
- Mediation
- Merchant
- Mining
- Mountaineering
- Mythology
- Native Language
- Navigation
- Occultism
- Photography
- Pickpocket
- Pilot
- Predict Weather
- Psychology
- Public Speaking
- Quick-Draw
- Read Lips
- Rescue
- Research
- Reverse Engineering
- Riding
- Rigging
- Rope Use
- Scribe

- Scrounging
- SCUBA Diving
- Sculpting
- Seamanship
- Secret Language
- Security Systems
- Seduction
- Set Snares
- Sewing
- Shadowing
- Sign Language
- Signalling
- Slight of Hand
- Snake Charming
- Sniper
- Sociology
- Soldiering
- Speed-Load
- Spell Craft
- Spelunking
- Stealth
- Steganography
- Stonemasonry
- Storytelling
- Streetwise
- Stunt Driver
- Survival
- Swimming
- Tailor
- Teaching
- Throw Voice
- Tightrope Walking
- Torture
- Toxicology
- Tracking
- Trapping
- Unarmed Combat
- Ventriloquism
- Weapon Smithing
- Weapons Master
- Weaving
- Woodworking
- Wrestling
- Zero-Gravity