

The Questions of Character
from *Story Engineering* by Larry Brooks
pg. 112-114

What's your character's backstory?

What is her/his inner demon and how does it influence decisions and actions in the face of the outer demon that will come in the story?

What does he resent?

What is his drive to get revenge?

How does he feel about himself and what is the gap between that assessment and how others feel about him?

What is your character's worldview?

What is your character's moral compass?

Is your character a giver or a taker in life?

To what extent does your character adhere to gender roles and stereotypes? And if the character doesn't fit, how is he/she different?

What lessons has your character not yet learned in life?

What lessons has he experienced but rejected or failed to learn?

Who are his/her friends? Are they like-for-like? Above or below him in intelligence?

What is your character's social IQ? Awkward? Eager? Easy? Introverted/Extroverted?

What is your character's most secret yearning?

What childhood dream never came true and why?

What is your character's spiritual belief system?

What is the worst thing your character has ever done?

Does your character have secrets or secret life?

What does your character's loved ones not know about him/her?

When, how, and why does he hold back or procrastinate?

What has held him back in life?

How many people would come to her/his funeral? Why would someone not come?

What is the most unlikely or contradictory aspect of your character?

What are your character's first dimension quirks, habits, and choices?

Why are they in evidence? What do they say or what are they covering for?

What backstory leads to these habits or choices?

How strong is your character under pressure?

What is your character's arc in your story? How does she/he change and grow over the course of the story? How does he apply that learning toward becoming the catalytic force that drives the denouement of the story?