

Creating characters

Before you start writing a story, you'll need to create a main character – a 'protagonist' – and an 'antagonist', a character who gets in the way of what the protagonist wants.

Fill in the profiles below, and start thinking how you can bring your characters to life.

Protagonist

This could be someone who's investigating a haunting, or who has witnessed some kind of terrible crime.

Name _____

Does he/she have any special abilities? _____

What are his/her distinguishing features? _____

Does he/she have a sidekick or any close friends? _____

What is his/her greatest ambition? _____

What is he/she afraid of? _____

What words best describe him/her? _____

Weak points

Give your protagonist weaknesses as well as strengths. It helps build tension in the story if there's a chance the protagonist might not succeed.

Finding ideas

Feeling stuck? You could borrow a character from a book or a film, and add new traits to make it your own. Alternatively, take someone you've read about in a newspaper or magazine. You could even star in your story, along with your friends.



Antagonist

This might be a kidnapper, or a ghost that becomes dangerous when it's disturbed.

Name _____

What does he/she/it look like? _____

What drives him/her/it? _____

More than skin deep

Give your characters personal struggles that your reader can identify with, such as a deep regret or a fear of loneliness. Once your reader begins to care about your characters, there's more at stake when things start to go wrong...

Does he/she/it have any strange habits? _____

Does anything make him/her/it happy? _____

How does the antagonist react when he/she/it is angry? _____

What frightens him/her/it? _____