

# SCREENWRITING

## CHARACTER BIOGRAPHY QUESTION GUIDE

**First 10 Years of Life** (Include preschool and school years)

1. What gender is your character?
2. How old are they when the story begins?
3. Where do they live, what city or country?
4. Where were they born?
5. Were they an only child, or did they have siblings?
6. What kind of childhood did they have? Happy? Sad?
7. Physically or medically challenging?
8. What were their relationship to their parents?
9. Did they get into a lot of trouble as a kid?
10. What kind of child were they? Outgoing? Introverted?
11. Who raised them? Parents? Single parent? Someone else?
12. Is your character sheltered or streetwise?
13. What kind of jobs did the parental figures maintain?

**Next 10 years** (Ages 10-20. Include teen and early adult years)

14. What kind of influences did your character have growing up?
15. Friends?
16. Interests? School, athletics, social, political? After school clubs?
17. Sexual experiences?
18. Relationships with peers?
19. Did your character work part-time during high school?
20. Any sibling relationships? Did they change? Hostility?
21. Relationships with teachers?
22. What kind of relationship did they have with their parents during this time period?
23. Any major traumatic events that have emotional weight?
24. What was their high school experience?
25. Did they have many friends? Feel like an outsider?

**Next 10 years** (Ages 20-30. Include early adulthood & marital relationship)

26. Did your character go to college? Even consider college?
27. What college or university did they go to?
28. Did your character have a significant relationship here?
29. What happened to this relationship? Did they get married?
30. When your story starts if your character married, widowed, single, separated, divorced?

## CHARACTER BIOGRAPHY

The Character Biography is an exercise that reveals your character's interior life, the emotional forces working on your character from birth.

## EXTERIOR LIFE

**Professional:** What does your character do for a living? Where do they work? Are they happy or sad in their lives? Do they wish their lives were different, another job? Another self? Who do they work with or interact with? Professional jealousy? How does your character deal with work stress? What is their work environment?

**Personal:** What is your characters marital status? Are they in a relationship when the story begins? Where did they meet? Is the person your character begins the story with from the same background? What is their education? Do they do things together? Do they take each other for granted? What do they disagree on? What do they have in common? Any conflicts? Do they have many friends? Participate in social functions? Are they single? Are they dating many people or serious about one? When was their last relationship?

**Private:** What do they do when they're alone? Watch a lot of TV? Exercise? Are they into sports? Do they take a workshop or class once a week? Do they have any pets? What hobbies do they have?