



CHARACTERS' OFF STAGE LIVES

AUDIO NOTES OUTLINE

Looking at your characters in different ways adds a sense of depth and continuity to your story.

WHAT DOES YOUR MAIN CHARACTER DO EVERY TUESDAY BETWEEN 2 AND 4PM?

You need to account for your character's time even if that never appears in the book. When you know this, you will know how they react in any given situation.

Characters need a sense of continuity – a feeling that they existed before your story and will exist after (unless they die).

CHARACTERS AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

Make some notes from Kim's audio clarifying how you can think about the characteristics of your character in unexpected ways.



EXERCISE: MURDER AND CHARACTER INTERVIEW

Write a first-person account of what a detective would see at the murder scene of your main character. Then in part two, use the questions provided to interview your main character.

WHAT TO DO:

1. Your character has been murdered (probably by a jealous rival writer) by being deliberately crushed under a bookcase in his or her own home. A hard-boiled detective comes to the murder scene.
 - Write a first-person, hard-boiled account of what he sees and what judgments he makes about your character (1-2 paras).
 - Post to the Murder and Character Interview Forum.
2. Answer the interview questions below for your character. Then discuss on the **Murder and Character Interview Forum** what you found out about your character (if anything) that you didn't expect.
 1. What is most important in your life right now?
 2. Who do you admire most?
 3. What frightens you enough to keep you awake at night?
 4. You are a poor swimmer, but you see a toddler fall into a lake. What do you do?
 5. You aren't paying attention while driving, and hit somebody at a crossing. What do you do?
 6. You discover that your mother is/was not your biological mother, but that you were abducted as a baby. What do you do?
 7. You think you are falling in love with your sister's husband/ brother's wife. What do you do?
 8. Revolution has swept your country and now a new leader rises who you think might be evil. What do you do?
 9. If you could change one bad thing about the world, what would it be?