



FACINATING CHARACTERS

AUDIO NOTES OUTLINE

Fascinating characters have to seem real.

TO MAKE YOUR CHARACTERS FACINATING, THEY NEED TO HAVE:

- Vulnerabilities
- Flaws
- Self awareness and blind spots
- A personal history

1. VULNERABILITIES

2. FLAWS

3. SELF AWARENESS AND BLIND SPOTS

4. A PERSONAL HISTORY



HOW DO YOU GET TO KNOW YOUR CHARACTERS?

1. ABSTRACT LISTS

2. CHARACTER INTERVIEWS

3. WRITING ABOUT YOUR CHARACTERS – WRITING YOUR STORY

You need to have the courage to write your first draft and fix it later.

EXERCISE: DISCUSSING STEREOTYPES

Fascinating characters must have dramatic possibility. Creating fascinating characters involves making them seem real to the reader.

Here is a list of a few recognizable stereotypes in fiction:

- The chisel-jawed ex-soldier who is now a Private Investigator (PI)
- The hooker with a heart of gold.
- The beautiful ingénue on a journey from innocence to experience.
- The farm boy who doesn't know he's the prophesied saviour.
- The uptight career woman who didn't have time for children.



WHAT TO DO:

1. **Pick the Stereotype that interests you the most.**
2. **Brainstorm** how you could turn this stereotypical character into a more believable one. What could you change? What could you add?
2. **Summarise your discussion** and post the results to the **Stereotype Forum** and then discuss the summaries of your fellow participants.

EXERCISE: FEARS AND DESIRES

Answer these two questions about your main character.

1. What is your character's biggest fear?
2. What is your character's greatest desires?
3. Post your answers to these questions onto the **Fears & Desires Forum** and read the answers others have put up there.