

The Ultimate Character Questionnaire



This Character Questionnaire is brought to you by the Novel Factory.

The Novel Factory contains heaps of useful templates and tools to help novelists of all levels of experience get a better grip on both the big picture and the tiny details of their stories. Find out more at www.novel-software.com

Introduction

Character questionnaires can be a useful way to develop your characters, adding depth and texture to their personalities.

The idea isn't that you will include all of this information in your novel, or even half of it, but having such in-depth knowledge of your character will inform their attitude and behaviour on the page, even if it is never explicitly revealed why.

Additionally, in some cases, the questions might prompt you to discover things about your character which do directly influence the plot or relationships with other characters, and could inspire entire scenes.

Note that a character questionnaire isn't the best way to *start* building a character. If you try to build character solely based on going through a questionnaire, you're likely to end up with someone quite fragmented.

Instead think of the questions as clothes to hang on your character – you need a body to start with or they'll just end up in a heap on the floor.

If you'd like some guidance on how to start building a character, you could use a technique such as [Character Introductions](#).

How to use this questionnaire

First and foremost, you should use it however you wish. This isn't an exam, it's an exercise in inspiration and creativity, so do whatever works best for your brain.

But if you'd like a bit more direction, you can [check out this video](#), or follow these tips:

Do:

- Start by browsing quickly over all of the questions to get a sense of the sections
- Vary how you use the questionnaire depending on the character / the day / your mood
- Pick out the questions that you find work best for you, and use them to create your own personal streamlined questionnaire
- Completely ignore any sections you don't feel are relevant to your character
- Mix it up - one day you might decide to pick 10 questions completely at random. Another day you might decide to complete all the questions in a single section.
- Approach it as a brainstorming exercise
- Allow your mind to go down a rabbit hole, if one question inspires you to write an entire scene from that character's history, then fantastic!
- Understand that your in-depth knowledge of the character will bleed into your writing, even if the vast majority of this information is never written in your manuscript

Don't:

- Try to answer all of the questions for any given character
- Try to do too many of them in one sitting
- Feel you have to go through the questions in order
- Try to follow a rigid pattern over and over
- Use it to start building a character - you should already have the broad brushstrokes of your character, including what drives them, and their biggest flaw
- Use all of the information in your novel - most of the answers should be internalised, not spelled out

Happy writing!

Want to make your characters even better?

Scroll to the end of the character questionnaire to find out more...

The Ultimate Character Questionnaire

Basic Character Questions

1. First name?
2. Surname?
3. Middle names?
4. Nicknames?
5. Date of birth?
6. Age?

Physical / Appearance

7. Height?
8. Weight?
9. Build?
10. Hair colour?
11. Hair style?
12. Eye colour?
13. Eye Shape?
14. Glasses or contact lenses?
15. Distinguishing facial features?
16. Which facial feature is most prominent?
17. Which bodily feature is most prominent?
18. Other distinguishing features?
19. Skin?
20. Hands?
21. Make up?

- 22. Scars?
- 23. Birthmarks?
- 24. Tattoos?
- 25. Physical handicaps?
- 26. Type of clothes?
- 27. How do they wear their clothes?
- 28. What are their feet like? (type of shoes, state of shoes, socks, feet, pristine, dirty, worn, etc)
- 29. Race / Ethnicity?
- 30. Mannerisms?
- 31. Are they in good health?
- 32. Do they have any disabilities?

Personality

- 33. What words or phrases do they overuse?
- 34. Do they have a catchphrase?
- 35. Are they more optimistic or pessimistic?
- 36. Are they introverted or extroverted?
- 37. Do they ever put on airs?
- 38. What bad habits do they have?
- 39. What makes them laugh out loud?
- 40. How do they display affection?
- 41. Mental handicaps?
- 42. How do they want to be seen by others?
- 43. How do they see themselves?
- 44. How are they seen by others?
- 45. Strongest character trait?

46. Weakest character trait?
47. How competitive are they?
48. Do they make snap judgements or take time to consider?
49. How do they react to praise?
50. How do they react to criticism?
51. What is their greatest fear?
52. What are their biggest secrets?
53. What is their philosophy of life?
54. When was the last time they cried?
55. What haunts them?
56. What are their political views?
57. What will they stand up for?
58. Who do they quote?
59. Are they indoorsy or outdoorsy?
60. What is their sinful little habit?
61. What sense do they most rely on?
62. How do they treat people better than them?
63. How do they treat people worse than them?
64. What quality do they most value in a friend?
65. What do they consider an overrated virtue?
66. If they could change one thing about themselves, what would it be?
67. What is their obsession?
68. What are their pet peeves?
69. What are their idiosyncrasies?

Friends and Family

- 70. Is their family big or small? Who does it consist of?
- 71. What is their perception of family?
- 72. Do they have siblings? Older or younger?
- 73. Describe their best friend.
- 74. Ideal best friend?
- 75. Describe their other friends.
- 76. Describe their acquaintances.
- 77. Do they have any pets?
- 78. Who are their natural allies?
- 79. Who are their surprising allies?

Past and Future

- 80. What was your character like as a baby? As a child?
- 81. Did they grow up rich or poor?
- 82. Did they grow up nurtured or neglected?
- 83. What is the most offensive thing they ever said?
- 84. What is their greatest achievement?
- 85. What was their first kiss like?
- 86. What is the worst thing they did to someone they loved?
- 87. What are their ambitions?
- 88. What advice would they give their younger self?
- 89. What smells remind them of their childhood?
- 90. What was their childhood ambition?
- 91. What is their best childhood memory?

- 92. What is their worst childhood memory?
- 93. Did they have an imaginary childhood friend?
- 94. When was the last time they were crushed with disappointment?
- 95. What past act are they most ashamed of?
- 96. What past act are they most proud of?
- 97. Has anyone ever saved their life?
- 98. Strongest childhood memory?

Love

- 99. Do they believe in love at first sight?
- 100. Are they in a relationship?
- 101. How do they behave in a relationship?
- 102. When did your character last have sex?
- 103. What sort of sex do they have?
- 104. Has your character ever been in love?
- 105. Have they ever had their heart broken?

Conflict

- 106. How do they respond to a threat?
- 107. Are they most likely to fight with their fists or their tongue?
- 108. What is your character's kryptonite?
- 109. If your character's house was burning down, what one thing would they save?
- 110. How do they perceive strangers?
- 111. What do they love to hate?
- 112. What are their phobias?
- 113. What is their choice of weapon?

- 114. What living person do they most despise?
- 115. Have they ever been bullied or teased?
- 116. Where do they go when they're angry?
- 117. Who are their enemies and why?

Work, Education and Hobbies

- 118. What is their current job?
- 119. What do they think about their current job?
- 120. What are some of their past jobs?
- 121. What are their hobbies?
- 122. Educational background?
- 123. Intelligence level?
- 124. Do they have any specialist training?
- 125. Do they have a natural talent for something?
- 126. Do they play a sport? Are they any good?
- 127. What is their socioeconomic status?

Favourites

- 128. What is their favourite animal?
- 129. Which animal to they dislike the most?
- 130. What place would they most like to visit?
- 131. What is the most beautiful thing they've ever seen?
- 132. What is their favourite song?
- 133. Music, art, reading preferred?
- 134. What is their favourite colour?
- 135. What is their password?

- 136. Favourite food:
- 137. What is their favourite work of art?
- 138. Who is their favourite artist?
- 139. What is their favourite day of the week?

Possessions

- 140. What is in their fridge:
- 141. What is on their bedside table?
- 142. What is in their car?
- 143. What is in their bin?
- 144. What is in their purse or wallet?
- 145. What is in their pockets?
- 146. What is their most treasured possession?

Spirituality

- 147. Who or what is your character's guardian angel?
- 148. Do they believe in the afterlife?
- 149. What are their religious views?
- 150. What do they think heaven is?
- 151. What do they think hell is?
- 152. Are they superstitious?
- 153. What would they like to be reincarnated as?
- 154. How would they like to die?
- 155. What is your character's spirit animal?
- 156. What is their zodiac sign?

Values

- 157. What do they think is the worst thing that can be done to a person?
- 158. What is their view of 'freedom'?
- 159. When did they last lie?
- 160. What's their view of lying?
- 161. When did they last make a promise?
- 162. Did they keep or break their last promise?

Daily life

- 163. What are their eating habits?
- 164. Do they have any allergies?
- 165. Describe their home.
- 166. Are they minimalist or a clutter hoarder?
- 167. What do they do first thing on a weekday morning?
- 168. What do they do on a Sunday afternoon?
- 169. What do they do on a Friday night?
- 170. What is the soft drink of choice?
- 171. What is their alcoholic drink of choice?

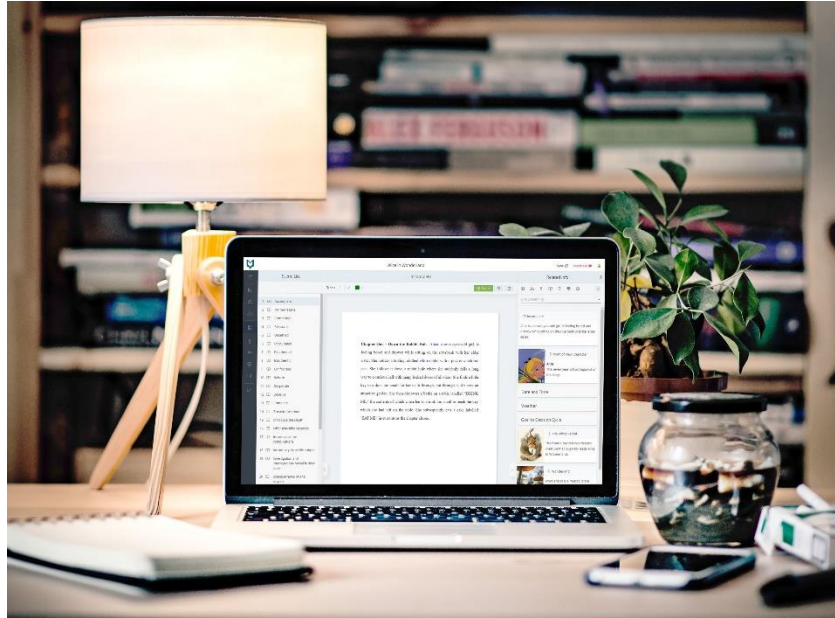
Miscellaneous

- 172. What is their [character archetype](#)?
- 173. Who is their hero?
- 174. What or who would your character dress up as for Halloween?
- 175. Are they comfortable with technology?
- 176. If they could save one person, who would it be?
- 177. If they could call one person for help, who would it be?

178. What is their favourite proverb?
179. What is their greatest extravagance?
180. What is their greatest regret?
181. What is their perception of redemption?
182. What would they do if they won the lottery?
183. What is their favourite fairytale?
184. What fairytale do they hate?
185. Do they believe in happy endings?
186. What is their idea of perfect happiness?
187. What would they ask a fortune teller?
188. If your character could travel through time, where would they go?
189. What sport do they excel at?
190. What sport do they suck at?
191. If they could have a superpower, what would they choose?

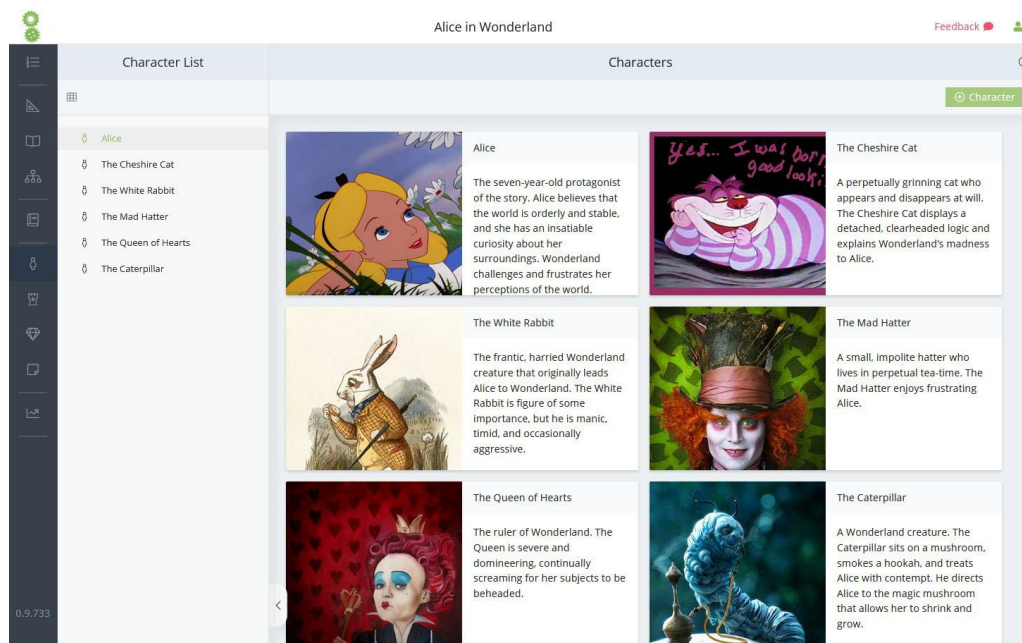
Want to make your characters even better?

As well as offering the ultimate character questionnaire in an easy to complete digital format, [The Novel Factory](https://www.novel-software.com) contains even more templates and resources for compelling, three-dimensional character development.



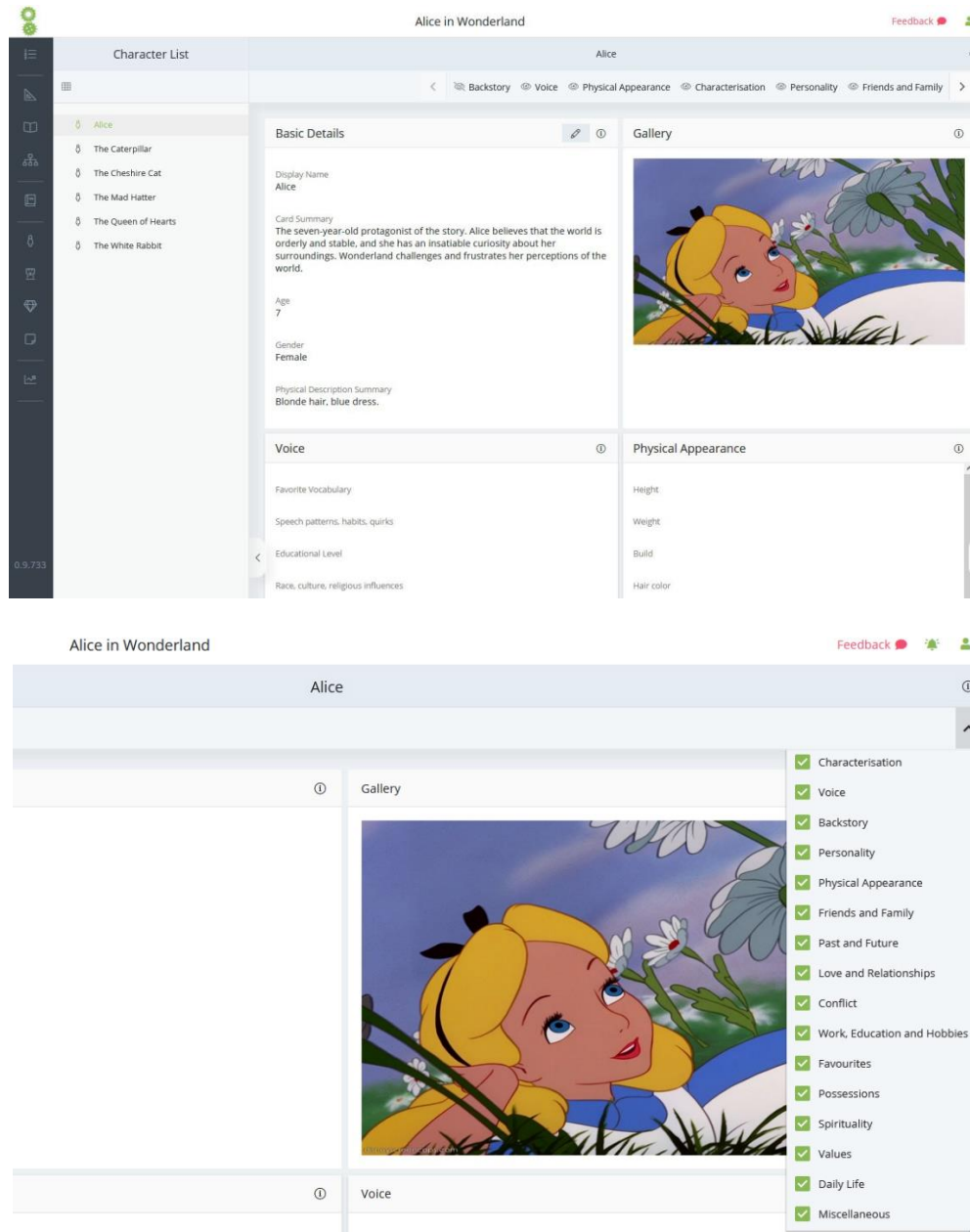
An in-depth character management tool

Keep all of your characters organized together to see them all at a glance, or open their individual tabs and view their detailed character profiles. These profiles can be used to include everything you need about your characters, including their basic info, character questionnaires, background, their voice, and more. The character profile is designed to make your job creating deep characters as simple as possible.



Tools to make your characters feel real

The character details section offers a wealth of prompts and information about creating memorable, three-dimensional characters. It includes space to flesh out character motivation, that character's archetype, their physical description, and much more.



You can try it completely free for 30 days, just:

- Visit www.novel-software.com
- Register for a free trial
- Start creating unforgettable characters!