

Character Profile Template

Fill this in for your protagonist and antagonist at minimum. Keep answers short — a sentence each is plenty, and leave blanks the draft will fill.

NAME / ROLE IN STORY

Name

Archetype / story function Hero, Mentor, Shadow, Ally...

THE CORE FOUR

Wants concrete, in this story

Wound what happened, and what they concluded from it

Contradiction believes X about themselves, actually does Y

Voice how they think and speak, in one line

PRESSURE

What they are most afraid of

What they would never do — and the situation that would make them do it

Who can hurt them, and how

CHANGE

How they see the world at the start

How they see it at the end

The moment that turns them

| ON THE PAGE

One physical habit or gesture readers will recognise

One thing they always carry, wear or say

How they behave when they do not get their way

| RELATIONSHIPS

To the protagonist

Who they would call at 3am

Who they are pretending with

Use it without stalling: fill it in fast (twenty minutes a character), then start writing. Update it as scenes reveal the character. Keep the profile out of the book – readers should feel the wound through behaviour, never be told it.