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HOW DO I CHARACTERIZE MY STORY?

By **ARTHUR ZULU**

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Author: Arthur Zulu

Contact Author: [mailto: controversialwriter@yahoo.com](mailto:controversialwriter@yahoo.com)

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HOW DO I CHARACTERIZE MY STORY?

By Arthur Zulu

If art is a reflection of life, then there should be people in your story. Because in life, people make history. Either for good, or for bad.

It is just as easy to create characters in a story. Now, look around you. Are there not people whose attitude interests or puzzles you? Or do you remember reading of one strange character in a storybook?

So, using your sources you may have developed some characters for your best seller.

Now, in characterization (for that is the name they call it), there are two types: the real characters and the stereotypes. And these characters may either be good or bad as in real life situation. Some are going to play principal roles, while others will play minor roles, also as in true-life situation. Again, they may be of different backgrounds and nationalities.

HOW DO I CHARACTERIZE MY STORY?

The following questions will help you to make effective characterization.

1. Who Should Be a Character?

That depends on the nature of your story. Anything could be a character. In the Bible, a snake and a donkey spoke

(Do they still talk?) And trees were characters in a mock drama. (Someone says they still do speak to those who understand them.) Even the Devil himself had a conference with God. (I don't think they are still in speaking terms).

So, your characters may be humans (DAVID COPPERFIELD by Charles Dickens), witches (MACBETH by William Shakespeare), animals (ANIMAL FARM by George Orwell), or the Devil (SATANIC VICARS by Arthur Zulu.) You may even wish to make yourself a character in a fiction as

some writers have done. Such ones are often heroes, or heroines -- they play the most important part, and they never die. I am thinking of Thor, in KONTIKI EXPEDITION by Thor Hayerdall.

2. How Should They Be Named?

First, their names should not be too long and foreign that your reader finds them difficult to remember. Abbreviated names, as in Shakespearean works, also cause problems.

Second, use revealing titles like Dr. and Prof., King and Queen, to help your reader grasp them easily. Historical names are beyond compare in this regard. Like Adolph Hitler. Or Winston Churchill. Your reader may have known about them, thus making understanding easy.

Third. The names of your characters may be used to provide clues to your reader. Like Christian and Morality in THE PILGRIMS' PROGRESS by John Bunyan.

3. How Many Should They Be?

Not too many, if you don't want to confuse your reader. The principal characters should stand clear from the minor characters. I have read a play of two characters.

4. Are My Characters Believable?

If you start by wondering whether your reader may believe your characters or not, you will not excel. After all, even in real life situations, there are persons who behave as if they are not of this world. Your reader may identify with one or two of your characters.

Have you read Charles Dickens? You may have noticed that his characters are larger than life -- unbelievable. There was one of his characters (I can't remember his name now), in his book, DAVID COPPERFIELD, whose life pre-occupation was the compilation of a dictionary. And there he was, struggling some where in letter "D" or so, in his old age, but still optimistic of reaching his cherished goal before the final call. Do such people live on earth? Yet, Charles Dickens remains the greatest novelist, who has ever lived.

5. How Should They Speak?

HOW DO I CHARACTERIZE MY STORY?

You will have to vary the speech patterns of your characters. From the royal and dignified speech of a king, to the learned and pedantic discourse of scientists; from the lowly and untrained language of a court servant, to the meaningless quibbling of a child.

In short, the speeches should reflect the various social, cultural, and educational backgrounds of your characters.

1. What Are My Characters' Motives?

There should be a motive for the actions of your characters. Or is it not so in life? For example, why do people love, or hate one another? Why do some kill, while others like charity? Why do people work? Or why do they have ambition? Or, to bring the chickens to roost -- why do you want to write a best - seller?

If your reader doesn't find satisfactory motives behind the actions of your characters, then you have not communicated.

7. Do my Characters Contribute to the Development of my Story?

This is a good question. In story writing, you may decide to be the story-teller. Or, you may leave that

task to one, or several of your characters. What your characters say, therefore, should have bearing to the subject matter, and the outworking of your story. Put differently, they should do the work you want them to do.

Do you want them to fight over something, or to love or kill themselves? Which character is doing what, and which characters are in the know, or are ignorant of those actions?

In doing so, you are using your characters to inform your reader. And if you do it well, you would have succeeded in pulling out a good story.

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About the Author:

ARTHUR ZULU, The Most Controversial Writer in the World, is the author of the best - selling book, HOW TO WRITE A BEST-SELLER. Download your copy and FREE excerpt at :

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Do You Know What A Plot Is?

HOW DO I CHARACTERIZE MY STORY?

By Nick Vernon

Creative Writing Tips -

What a plot is and what a story is can be sometimes confusing. If you think they are the same... They are not. A plot is the outline of your story. The story is everything included.

I will illustrate the difference by asking you to visualize two pictures...

1. Visualize a skeleton.

Then

2. Visualize a body.

The skeleton is your plot. It's the outline of your story. It won't be visible when we flesh it out but it will still be there, holding your story together.

The body is your story. It's everything, which our story will contain, including the plot. The story is the plot fleshed out.

What does it mean to 'flesh it out'?

Let me show you.

I'll take a brief plot...

A man meets a woman and they fall in love. They encounter great difficulties because their family are against the relationship.

This is the outline of the story.

Now we are going to flesh it out and make it into a story. Fleshing it out means adding things to make this basic plot into a story. To do this we will add the rest of the ingredients such as... Setting - Where will our story take place Dialogue - What will be said and by whom Characters - How many characters will our story contain? Who are they? What is their role? Problems - What and how many problems will the couple encounter Goal - What is the couple's goal? Conflict - What is the conflict? Climax - How is the conflict going to come to its peak? Ending - Will their love win in the end? And anything else I'll need in my story

Once we have written up all these ingredients, this will be our plot fleshed out into a story.

Besides his passion for writing, Nick Vernon runs an online gift site where you will find gift information, articles and readers' funny stories. Visit

HOW DO I CHARACTERIZE MY STORY?

Do You Know What A Plot Is?

Does The Title Reflect The Story?

If The Viewpoint Character Is A Secondary Character, Have You Established Who He is?

Have You Plotted Your Story Before Writing It?

How To Create A News Angle How To Create A News Angle

The First and Second Adam

HIV/Aids Healed by the Power of God

If I Can, Anybody Can!

The Toaster's Handbook

Christmas Happy Package



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[100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment](#)
Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances
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