

39 page
sneak peek...



#STORY CRAFTER COLLECTION

*by faye kirwin of
writerology*

PREVIEW OF

the #storycrafter collection

Hey there, storycrafter. Can I ask you a question?
How well do you *really* know your characters?

Let's put aside the facts and figures, names and dates for a moment. I'm talking about how well you know your characters' **souls**—what they've lived through, how they see the world, what their thoughts, words and actions sound and feel like. All of this combines to make truly unique, memorable characters. And if you want some of that, stick around. You're in the right place.

So how can you create standout characters that feel tangible and resonate with both their readers and their creators? It's not an easy task. Those characters may spring from our heads but that doesn't mean we know everything about them.

There is, however, a way to learn all there is to know, a way to open the doors to your characters' minds and let you understand them like you never have before.

What is that? *Become* your characters. Not physically possible, I know, so let's go for the next best thing: **roleplaying as them**.

No more distancing yourself from your characters with third-person. For the length of this workbook preview, I want you to adopt your characters' personas, let go of all your inhibitions and write as if you *are* them—because, my dear storycrafter, for the next 24 questions, you are.

YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT PLACE IF YOU STRUGGLE WITH:

— Getting your characters to **open up** and translating their **vibrant selves** from your mind on to the page

— Creating **standout, non-stereotypical characters**, each with their own **unique voices**

— Developing **consistent, meaningful backstory**, alongside **compelling goals and fears** to drive your characters forwards

— Building **realistic and dynamic relationships** between your characters, from main to minor

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

I'm Faye Kirwin, an INFJ with a passion for prose, psychology and very pretty teapots.

Lovely to meet you.

I spend my days blending the science of psychology with the art of storytelling, helping authors create empowering writing practices, and hosting the #storycrafter Twitter chat.

Want to know more? Come find me on...

www.writerology.net

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MORE ABOUT

the #storycrafter collection

Now for a spot of context. Why is this workbook called the #Storycrafter Collection and why the focus on roleplay?

In November 2015, I started the #storycrafter Twitter chat, a weekly gathering in which writers from across the world converge to share their successes, struggles, words and wisdom. We come together each Sunday at 8 p.m. UTC and, over the course of an hour, answer a series of questions based on that week's topic.

The first chat of each month is very special. Yes, you guessed it—it's a chat dedicated to roleplaying our characters, deepening our connections to our casts and learning things we never knew we never knew.

So why is this workbook called the #Storycrafter Collection? Because, for the first time ever, every question asked over our two years of roleplay chats (plus several new questions, exclusive to this workbook) has been brought together in one place, for the sole purpose of helping you to understand your characters like you never have before.

Shall we get started on that goal? Then take a backseat, storycrafter.

From here on out, your characters are in the driving seat and it's them I'll be talking to directly.

So come closer, my dear characters, and tell me all about yourselves...

CHARACTER PROFILE

tell me about yourself...

YOUR NAME:

YOUR AGE:

YOUR DATE OF BIRTH:

YOUR PLACE OF BIRTH:

YOUR OCCUPATION:

YOUR CURRENT RESIDENCE:

YOUR HAIR COLOUR:

YOUR EYE COLOUR:

NOTES ON YOUR DEFINING FEATURES:

OTHER NOTES:



FOR THE PROTAGONISTS

*take your place in the spotlight,
my dear main character, and
let us learn a bit more
about you with these
questions...*

CHAT #3

what event changed your world?

Once upon a time, you had a normal life. Then that “normal” was brutally shattered. But what exactly happened to turn your world upside down, to throw you headlong into the events of the plot?
What was *your* call to adventure, protagonist?



THIS CHAT CAN BE ANSWERED BY:

protagonists
deuteragonists

THE QUESTIONS ARE IDEAL FOR DISCOVERING:

character backstory
the inciting event
major plot points

USE WHAT YOU DISCOVER TO CREATE:

a gripping and engaging storyline
an empathetic main character
compelling character histories
absorbing internal conflict
riveting external conflict
satisfying character development

QUESTION 1

*What was your “normal life” like, before the
events of the story got going?*

Your thoughts?



FOR THE ANTAGONISTS

*it's your turn to shine, antagonist!
take your rightful place at centre
stage and show us what you're
made of with these
questions...*

CHAT #8

what principles guide you through life?

Good and evil. Right and wrong. Just and unjust. What really separates one from the other? Where do you draw the line? That's right, it's time to dig deep as we find out what principles and values guide your actions, dear antagonist.



THIS CHAT CAN BE ANSWERED BY:

antagonists
rivals of the protagonist
characters with questionable agendas

THE QUESTIONS ARE IDEAL FOR DISCOVERING:

personality
principles and values
world-view

USE WHAT YOU DISCOVER TO CREATE:

three-dimensional antagonists
divisive moral dilemmas
organic character encounters
absorbing internal conflict
transfixing interpersonal conflict
riveting external conflict
satisfying character development

QUESTION 2

Are there circumstances in which you'll do something you deem 'wrong' or even 'evil'? What are they?

Your thoughts?



FOR THE SIDE CHARACTERS

*it's time to prove that there's nothing
'secondary' about you, dear side
character. show us what
you've got with these
questions...*

CHAT #9

what makes you a standout sidekick?

You're more than a sidekick really. You've journeyed alongside the protagonist, fought, struggled, stumbled and laughed with them, and this tale wouldn't be the same without you. And now it's time to share your side of the story.



THIS CHAT CAN BE ANSWERED BY:

loveable sidekicks
faithful companions
staunch allies
dependable friends

THE QUESTIONS ARE IDEAL FOR DISCOVERING:

character backstory
personality and traits
character dynamics
relationships
motivations

USE WHAT YOU DISCOVER TO CREATE:

a multifaceted cast
relatable secondary characters
compelling character histories
absorbing internal conflict
transfixing interpersonal conflict
riveting external conflict
satisfying character development



FOR ANY CHARACTER

*and now for a character free-for-all.
step up to the plate, dear character,
whoever you may be, and try
your hand at these
questions...*

CHAT #14

how does your past affect your present?

Memories and past experiences can echo through our lives in ways we may never have realised. It's time to unearth *yours*, dear character, and how they've shaped the person you are today. Prepare yourself. We're about to get real here.



THIS CHAT CAN BE ANSWERED BY:

protagonists

antagonists

secondary characters

minor characters

THE QUESTIONS ARE IDEAL FOR DISCOVERING:

character backstory

past traumas

lifetime achievements

life-changing events

greatest regrets

USE WHAT YOU DISCOVER TO CREATE:

a multifaceted cast

compelling character histories

absorbing internal conflict

riveting external conflict

satisfying character development



GOT A SPARE?

*run out of space when writing your
answers? don't let that stop you.
print off a spare page and
keep those words
flowing...*

END OF PREVIEW

want to know more?

THE #STORYCRAFTER COLLECTION

22 topics, 132 questions, 1 purpose:

to help you to understand
your characters like
you never have
before...

What's included in the full workbook?

- character fact files
- 24 roleplay questions for protagonists
- 24 roleplay questions for antagonists
- 30 roleplay questions for side characters
- 54 roleplay questions for any character
of your choosing
- an invitation to the inspiration
for the #Storycrafter Collection

GET YOUR HANDS ON THE 170-PAGE WORKBOOK HERE