CHARACTER QUESTIONNAIRE

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND LOCATION

1. When date was your character born?

2. How long is their life span? Between what dates?

3. What is a social and political event that occurred the year your character was born? During their childhood?

4. What is the political landscape like during your character’s life span?

5. What are five significant historical occurrences that happened during your character’s life? Accomplishments, failures, changes?

6. Where does your character live?

7. What are the weather and seasons like?

8. How many people live in their city or town?

9. Describe the landscape where your character lives.

10. What is their living situation? House, apartment, shack, no home at all?

OCCUPATION AND LIFESTYLE

1. What does your character do for a living? How do they see their profession? What do they like about it? Dislike?

2. What social groups and activities does your character attend? What role do they like to play? What role do they actually play, usually?

3. What are their hobbies and interests?

4. What did they want to be as a child? Did they accomplish this, or change their mind? How?

5. What is their income?

6. What is their dream job? Or if they are doing it, what are their goals within the job?

8. Did they graduate? High School? College? Do they have a PHD? A GED?

9. How does their education and intelligence – or lack thereof - reflect in their speech pattern, vocabulary, and pronunciations?

10. What was their favorite subject in school? Least favorite?

11. Were they a good student? Bad? Mediocre? What about their grades like?

12. What was their attitude towards education? How did they treat teachers vise versa? What about mentors? Adversaries?

CULTURE AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. What type of discipline was your character subjected to at home? Strict? Lenient?

2. Were they overprotected as a child? Sheltered?

3. What was the economic status of their family?

4. Is your character street-smart, book-smart, intelligent, intellectual, and slow-witted?

5. Who is your character's mate? How do they relate to him or her? How did they make their choice?

6. What were the most deeply impressive political or social, national or international, events that they experienced?

7. What is their religious upbringing?

8. What is their ethnicity?

9. Where is their family from? How does this affect their traditions and values?

10. What is their diet like?

PHYSICALITY

2. How do they relate to their appearance? How do they wear their clothing? Style? Quality?

3. Is your character tall? Short? What about size? Weight? Posture? How do they feel about their physical body?


6. What are the prevailing facial expressions? Sour? Cheerful? Dominating?

WEAKNESSES AND STRENGTHS

1. What are your character's weaknesses? Hubris? Pride? Controlling?

2. What does your character lust for?

3. What are their guilty pleasures?

4. When does your character lose control? In what situations? What triggers them?

5. Has your character ever hurt someone because of an internal weakness?

6. Has your character ever saved someone? What qualities innate qualities aided in the accomplishment? How did he or she do it and why?

COMPLEXITIES

1. What were your character's deepest disillusions? In life? What are they now?

2. Are they holding on to something in the past? Can he or she forgive?


4. Do they always rationalize errors? How do they accept disasters and failures?

5. Do they like to suffer? Like to see other people suffering?

6. How is your character's imagination? Daydreaming a lot? Worried most of the time? Living in memories?

8. What do they like to ridicule? What do they find stupid?

9. How is their sense of humor? Do they have one?


11. What does your character want most? What do they need really badly, compulsively? What are they willing to do, to sacrifice, to obtain?

12. Does your character have any secrets? If so, are they holding them back?


EXTRAS


2. What did they find abroad, and what did they remember?

3. What are your character’s pet peeves?

4. Who is their celebrity crush? Idols? Obsessions?

5. What kind of music does your character like? Movies?


EMOTIONS AND ATTITUDES

1. How does your character think of their father? What do they hate and love about him? What influence - literal or imagined - did the father have?

2. Their mother? How do they think of her? What do they hate? Love? What influence - literal or imagined - did the mother have?


4. Did they feel rejection or affection as a child?
5. How do they see themselves: as smart, as intelligent, and uneducated?

6. Did they like school? Teachers? Schoolmates?

7. What are your character's manners like? What is their type of hero? Whom do they hate?

8. Who are their friends? Lovers? 'Type' or 'ideal' partner?

9. What do they want from a partner? What do they think and feel of sex?

10. Does your character have children? How do they feel about their parental role? About the children? How do the children relate?


12. Do they want to project an image of a younger, older, more important person? Does they want to be visible or invisible?

VALUES

1. How does your character feel about religion?

2. What about political beliefs?

3. How badly do they want to obtain their life objectives? How do they pursue them?

4. What is his or her moral code?

5. What are their concerns about the modern world?

6. What about specific philosophies or belief systems?