

A “Reporter’s Interview” with His or Her Character:

85 Character Development Questions Writers Should Ask Their Main Characters (so their readers can get to know, and remember them!)

### Overview Questions

1. What was your greatest success so far?
2. What was your greatest failure so far?
- 3. What do you enjoy doing most?**
- 4. What do you dislike doing most?**
5. What are you best at?
6. What are you worst at?
7. What do you like about people?
8. What do you dislike about people?
- 9. What is your best quality?**
- 10. What is your worst quality?**

### Personal Questions

- 1. What is your real, birth name? What name do you use?**
2. Do you have a nickname? What is it, and where did you get it?
- 3. What do you look like? (Include height, weight, hair, eyes, skin, apparent age, and distinguishing features)**
4. How do you dress most of the time?
5. In your opinion, what is your best feature?
6. In your opinion, what is your worst feature?
7. Where do you live? Describe it: Is it messy, neat, avant-garde, sparse, etc.?

8. What is your most prized possession? Why do you value it so much?

9. What one word best describes you?

10. How do others describe you?

**11. What are you most afraid of and why?**

12. What worries you the most and why?

**13. If you could change one thing about yourself what would it be?**

#### Familial Questions

**1. What is/was your family like?**

2. Who was your father, and what was he like?

3. Who was your mother, and what was she like?

4. What was your parents' marriage like? Were they married? Did they remain married?

5. What were your siblings' names? What were they like?

#### Childhood Questions

1. What is your first memory?

2. What was your favorite toy or game?

3. Who was your best friend when you were growing up?

**4. What is your fondest, childhood memory?**

**5. What is your worst childhood memory?**

### Adolescent Questions

1. It is common for one's view of authority to develop in their adolescent years. What is your view of authority, and what event most affected it?
2. What were you like in high school? What "clique" did you best fit in with?
3. Who was your idol when you were growing up? Who did you first fantasize about in your life?
4. What is your favorite memory from adolescence?
5. What is your worst memory from adolescence?

### Occupational Questions

- 1. Do you have a job? What is it? Do you like it? If no job, where does your money come from?**
2. What is your boss or employer like? (Or publisher, or agent, or whatever.)
3. What are your co-workers like? Do you get along with them? Any in particular? Which ones don't you get along with?
4. What is something you had to learn that you hated?
- 5. Are you rich or poor...and do you tend to save or spend your money? Why?**

### Likes & Dislikes Questions

1. What hobbies do you have?
- 2. Who is your closest friend? Describe them and how you relate to them.**
- 3. Who is your worst enemy? Describe them and why you don't get along.**
4. What is your favorite sport?
5. What type of music do you like?

6. What's been your favorite movie of all time?
7. When it comes to politics, do you care? If so, which way do you tend to vote? If not, why don't you care?
8. What or who annoys you more than anything else?
9. What would be the perfect gift for you?
10. What is your favorite food? What is your least favorite food?
11. What your favorite pet or animal?

### Sex & Intimacy Questions

1. Would you consider yourself straight, gay, or something else? Why?
- 2. Are you currently in a relationship? If so is it positive or negative and why?**
3. What would you change about your mate?
4. If not already, do you ever want to get married and have children? When do you see this happening?
5. Describe your soul mate.

### Spirituality/Morality Questions

1. What one act in your past are you most ashamed of?
2. What one act in your past are you most proud of?
- 3. What do you feel most strongly about?**
4. What makes you most angry? Depressed?
5. What trait do you find most admirable?
6. Do you have any feelings in general that you are disturbed by? What are they? Why do they disturb you?

7. What's the worst thing that can be done to another person? Why?
8. What is your responsibility to the world, if any? Why do you think that?
9. Do you think redemption is possible?
10. Is it okay for you to cry? When was the last time you cried?
11. What do you think is wrong with MOST people, overall?
12. Do you think the future is hopeful? Why?
13. Are you religious? If so, how?
- 14. What are your beliefs (in God, Satan, supernatural, etc.)**
15. Do you believe there is life after death? Heaven? Hell? What do they look like?
16. Do you believe you were put here for a specific purpose? What is it?

#### Miscellaneous Questions

1. Has anyone or anything you've ever cared about died? How did you feel about it? What happened?
- 2. What is your current long term goal?**
3. What is your current short term goal?
4. Do you have any bad habits? If so, what are they, and do you plan to get rid of them?
5. If you could do one thing you haven't done already in life, what would it be?
6. What time period do you wish you had lived in? Why? (Looking at this as an attempt to change history doesn't count.) What appeals to you about this era?
7. How private of a person are you? Why?
8. If you were to gain an obscenely large sum of money (via an inheritance, a lawsuit, a lottery, or anything else) what would you do with it?
9. Where would you travel if time and money weren't an issue?
- 10. If you could be anyone, who do you want to be "when you grow up?" Are you there yet?**